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THE INDEPENDENT

3,045 | TUESDAY 23 JULY 1996 | WEATHER Unsettled with scattered showers | 40p (IR 45p)

A new recruit for Mr Redwood

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

John Major was placed once again on the rack over Europe yesterday, as the Paymaster General, David Heathcoat-Amory, resigned to campaign against the single currency from within the Euro-sceptic camp led by John Redwood.

Telling John Major bluntly that the Government's European policy "is not working". Mr Heathcoat-Amory gave up his post at the Treasury as number four to the pro-European Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke.

Mr Heathcoat-Amory will launch a pamphlet this morning starkly entitled *A Single European Currency: Why the UK Must Say No*, and published by the Bruges Group, headed by Baroness Thatcher. One Redwood supporter commented: "It sounds to me like a very Redwoodian document."

In his letter to Mr Major yesterday, he said: "I am leaving because I can no longer support the Government's policy towards the EU. At the Foreign Office and more recently at the Treasury I have dealt with the EU at first hand.

"I have supported a policy of attempting to reform it and building a relationship which protects British interests and prevents unwarranted interference in our affairs. This policy is not working."

Mr Major's tone in his reply was conciliatory, describing the decision only as "a mistake". But the loyalist former Cabinet minister, David Mellor, was venomous on the Prime Minister's behalf, saying the resignation showed a "decadence and an obliviousness" to the imminence of a general election.

And a serving Cabinet minister told the *Independent*: "They must be out of their tiny Chinese minds if they think they can reopen the issue of a single currency after the White Paper." In March, the Government set out its position of keeping the option open, in a White Paper called *A Partnership of Nations*. The minister added: "It's a party with a death wish."

But Mr Heathcoat-Amory's resignation gives a boost to the insistent demands from Tories both inside and outside the Government that Mr Major rule out a single European currency at the next election – not to mention the leadership ambitions of John Redwood, campaigning on precisely this platform.

Only last week, Mr Major pleaded with Tory MPs to pull together during the long campaign, already well under way. Euro-sceptics could hardly conceal their glee at this public rebuff. Bill Cash said Mr Heathcoat-Amory had "the best all-round credentials at Minister of State level" to judge the importance of the looming single currency issue.

Redwood supporter Sir George Gardiner told the *Independent* he welcomed the resignation. "John Major enjoined us to do everything we could to win the next election, and that's what we're doing," he said.

David Heathcoat-Amory: An attack on monetary policy

Privately, the Euro-sceptics welcomed Mr Heathcoat-Amory as a recruiting sergeant, and thought he might embolden other doubters to consider their position. At least one ministerial aide said he intended to resign before the election.

The Government attempted to deflect Euro-sceptic pressure yesterday by publishing details of its proposals to reform the European Court of Justice (ECJ) and to end the practice of quota-hopping by the Spanish fishing fleet.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said changes to the ECJ – a key demand of Euro-sceptics led by Mr Redwood – were needed "to improve the workings of the court and to address concerns about the effects of some of its judgments". He published a memorandum calling for time limits, a limit to retrospective judgments and an appeals procedure.

But these were dismissed out of hand by a spokesman for Mr Redwood, who described them as "thin gruel, a superficial response to a profound problem". He added: "The only appeals procedure should be from the ECJ to the High Court of Parliament."

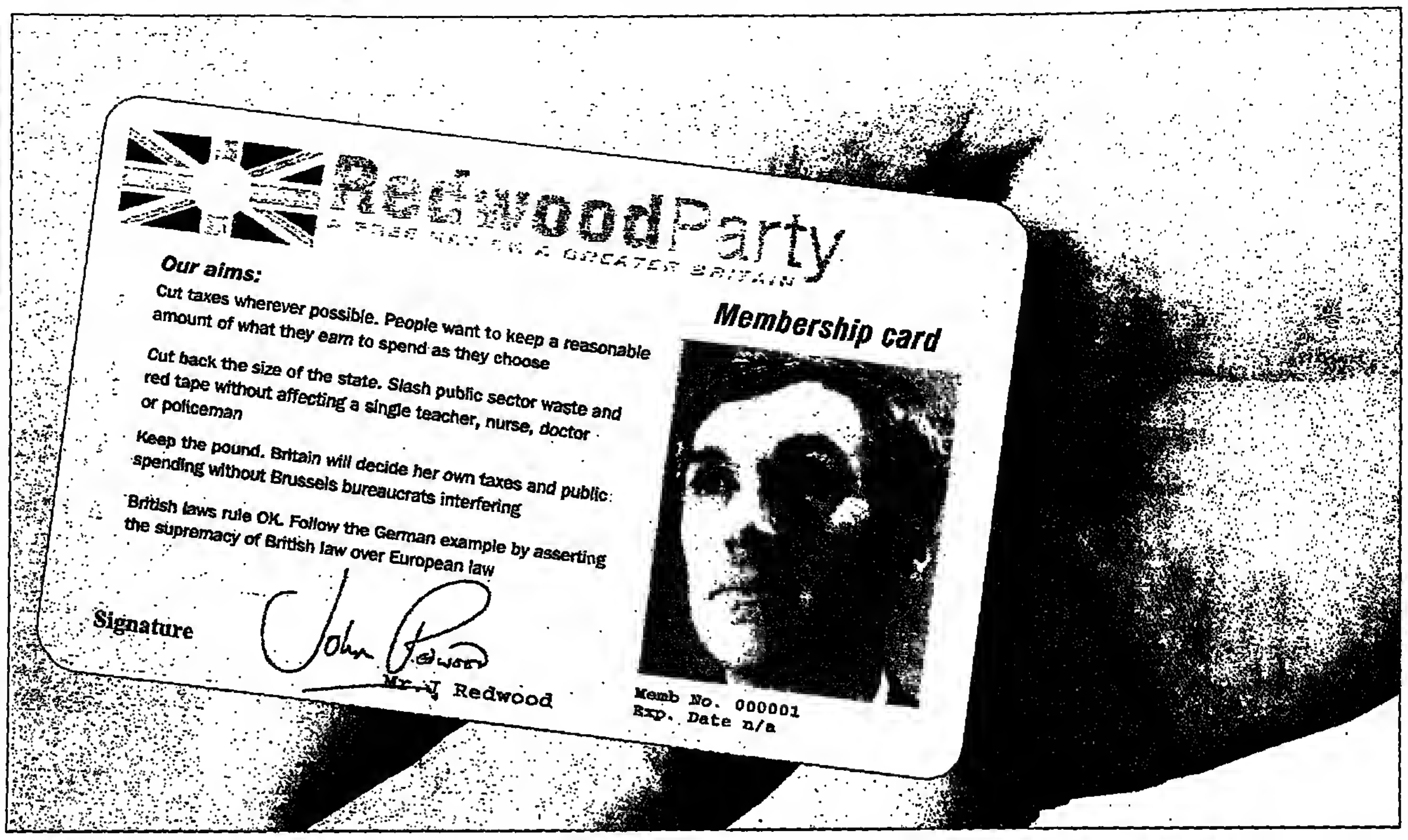
Meanwhile the Government attempted a soothing damage-limitation exercise, with sources close to Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, denying that he was the only obstacle to the Government now closing the option of joining a single European currency in the first wave.

Treasury sources claimed that Germany and France might still postpone the launch of the single currency from 1999 for a year or two, and that the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary – as well as Mr Clarke and the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine – were strongly committed to keeping the option open.

They also denied weekend reports that the Chancellor had offered Mr Heathcoat-Amory a promotion to avert his resignation, but they confirmed that Mr Clarke had suggested he could "see more papers and come to more meetings".

The Redwood stage

- Key lieutenants: Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor; Iain Duncan Smith, one of the brightest of the 1992 intake; David Evans, the populist member of the 1922 Committee executive; John Townend, leader of the '92 Group, the main right-wing Tory faction
- Other former ministers include Jonathan Aitken, Dame Angela Rumbold and Charles Wardle, who resigned over his fears that the EU could effectively control British immigration policy.
- Fifth columnists in the Government: Peter Lilley, Michael Howard and Michael Portillo in the Cabinet all have leadership ambitions of their own, but share the Redwood



Wednesday's men plan secret coup

Mr Heathcoat-Amory's resignation strengthens the hand of a shadowy group of Conservative MPs who meet on Wednesdays to plot the replacement of John Major by John Redwood after the next election, *writes John Rentoul*.

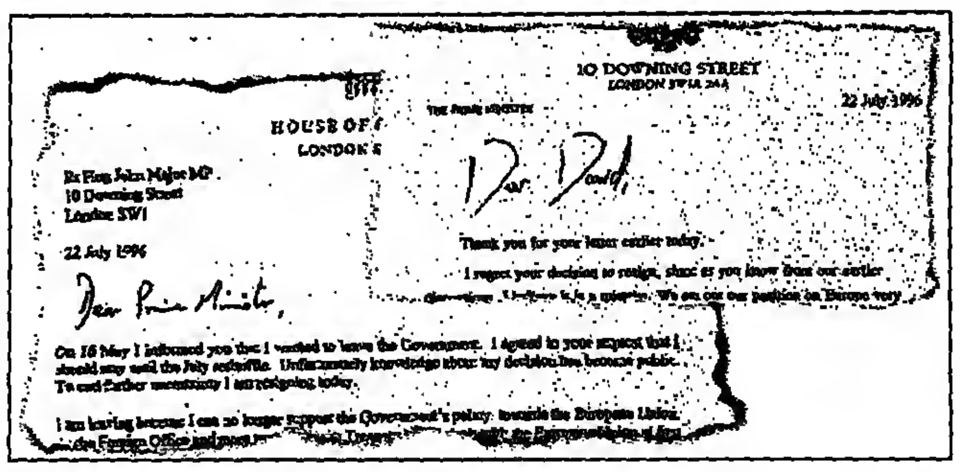
The group, which meets by invitation only, and supposedly to monitor the Government's European policy, is reliably said to be making secret plans for a Redwood leadership attempt after the expected general election defeat. Regular attenders are said to include Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, and leading Euro-sceptics Bill Cash, Sir Teddy Taylor and Christopher Gill.

The group's existence suggests that Mr Redwood is still the front-runner on the right. Many Tory MPs feeling he has eclipsed Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence. But other Euro-sceptics are actively plotting on behalf of the Home Secretary, Michael Howard

With less than a year to go to the earliest likely date of a Tory leadership contest, immediately after a May 1997 general election, the tempo of covert campaigning has risen.

Mr Redwood, who won 89 votes in his challenge to Mr Major last year, has been freer than any of the Cabinet contenders to campaign for the post, with an operation resembling a separate political party, with its own headquarters at the Conservative 2000 Foundation, the think-tank set up by his adviser Hywel Williams.

On Saturday Mr Redwood starts a 10-day tour of the United States, making a series of television programmes to be shown by GMTV on Sunday mornings during August. He is expected to be feted by the right-wing National Centre for Policy Analysis as Margaret Thatcher's rightful heir. The wealthy centre, which promoted Newt Gingrich's new right agenda in the 1994 US mid-term elections, has also provided Baroness Thatcher with a platform in America.



QUICKLY

Burundi refusal
The prime minister of Burundi, where a massacre of 300 Tutsis on Sunday shocked the world, is opposing moves to form an international peacekeeping force. Page 11

Major meets loyalists
John Major met two loyalist politicians with terrorist convictions last night in a clear signal to Sinn Fein that it will be brought into talks if the IRA calls a ceasefire. Page 2

Herbal remedies
A group of senior doctors has recommended setting up a collection of Chinese herbs at Kew Gardens to prevent poisoning by herbal remedies. Page 3

Aircraft checks
Foreign-licensed aircraft are to be subject to tighter controls next year because of the recent spate of safety scares. Page 5

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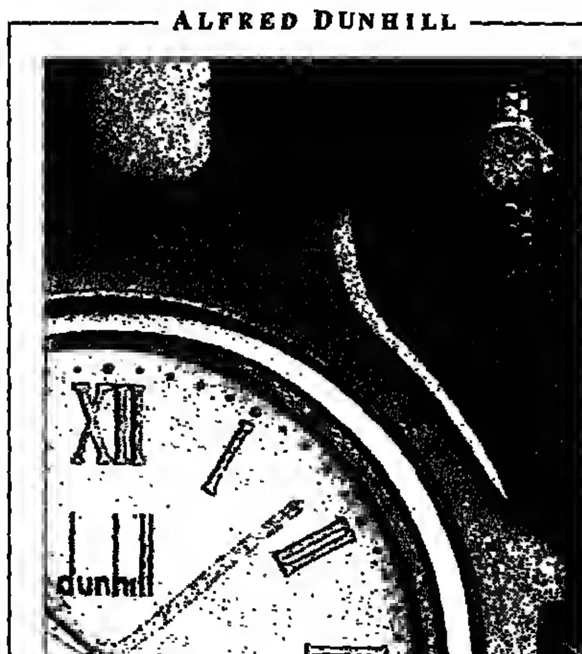

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3,300 embryos like this will have to perish. Massacre or common sense?

GLENDA COOPER

The age-old question of what constitutes human life faces a critical test next week when 3,300 embryos frozen for couples undergoing fertility treatment are destroyed on government orders.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryological Authority (HFEA) says that under present law, frozen embryos – consisting of four or eight cells – must be allowed to perish after five years unless the parents consent to further storage. The problem is that the 900 parents of these embryos have been untraceable or refused to reply.

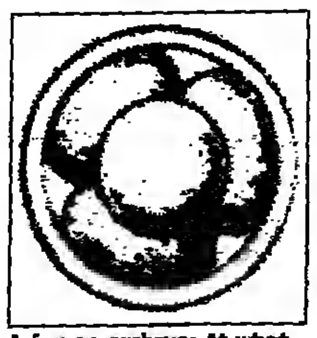
The Vatican and pro-life organisations called the move "pre-natal massacre" and a "discarding of ... abandoned human beings". The HFEA said it was preferable to allowing people to "adopt" such embryos, which would be ethically and legally wrong. Five British couples want to "adopt" an embryo, according to the national pro-life charity Life.

Embryo freezing began in 1983, because in-vitro fertilisation usually produces more embryos than can be put back into the womb. It is estimated around 60,000 embryos are in storage, of which 9,000 were frozen before August 1991.

"The fundamental question is how these embryos are to be regarded," said Ian Kennedy, professor of medical law and ethics at King's College, London. "Are they regarded as pieces of property or potential people? And does the embryo belong to someone if they are potential people?"

Pro-life campaigners say life begins at the moment of conception, so destroying an embryo destroys a human. Their opponents say a day-old embryo cannot be considered a person, and storing embryos for years or allowing others to implant them without parental consent is far more reprehensible.

It was the first time the HFEA had confirmed that more than 3,000 embryos, a third of those that fall into the five-year limit, were due to perish because clinics had failed to trace 650 couples and 260 couples had refused to reply to registered letters.



A frozen embryo: At what stage is it a human life?

"The regulations now allow many patients to extend their consent to 10 years or more," said Ruth Deech, HFEA chairperson. "But if that consent cannot be obtained the storage has to cease, which means, sadly, allowing a number of embryos to perish. But if you think through the other options, of using them without the consent of individuals, or of keeping them stored indefinitely, these options are far less acceptable."

The embryos, no bigger than a pinhead, will be thawed out and a drop of water or alcohol added to destroy them. They will then be incinerated. A Life spokesman said the practice "trivialised human life by simply throwing away spares".

"The code of practice requires that embryos created by in-vitro fertilisation should be 'allowed to perish' ... in a respectful and 'sensitive' way. But what is respectful and sensitive about throwing these tiny human beings into incinerators along with dirty swabs and bits and pieces from operating theatres? They are not things. They are human beings."

Yesterday *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper, said: "This means that from today on, each year, tens of thousands of embryos will be destroyed, tens of thousands of innocent lives will be cut short by law. This is a pre-natal massacre, a massacre not only tolerated but programmed and ordered by the same civil legislatures transformed ... into an instrument of perverse logic of violence and death."

But Richard Nicholson, editor of the *Bulletin of Medical Ethics*, said that embryos could not be considered in the same way as a child after birth: "There is an incremental growth in human rights, not a fixed quantum deposited at the moment of conception which never changes."

And Susan Rice, chief executive of Issue, the National Fertility Association, said: "There was always going to be a time when a decision would have to be made about what to do with them. These embryos are not children: they are a couple's potential to have children. When they are destroyed it is the potential that has gone."

news

Man of principle delivers PM a right upper cut

DAVID AARDNOVITCH

Praise where praise is due. The outgoing postmaster-general, David Heathcoat-Amory, has achieved relatively high office despite his almost crippling social disadvantages. Son of a Chancellor of the Exchequer, owner of vast estates in Scotland, educated at Eton and Balliol, he could easily have ended up – as have so many of what is called the "overclass" – bankrupt and penniless, swigging meths in a Swindon squat, or doing time for fraud.

But Mr H-A has battled through to achieve that rarest of feats – the distinction of having resigned from John Major's government on a point of principle. Not that he was in the Chamber yesterday. For a start he was, of course, too busy resigning. This involves exchanges of letters with the Prime Minister (pledging eternal support on everything except what really matters), having endless clear-the-air chats with constituency activists (invariably Lieutenant Colonels or publicans) and being described as "decadent" by David Mellor – who knows whereof he speaks.

Anyway real politics rarely make much of an appearance in the House. In this case, as in others, there was no resignation statement for MPs to listen to, and nothing of substance for them to debate. So they had to improvise, attempting to draw the discussion of completely different matters round to what they knew was the really important business of the day.

In some sessions (such as, say, overseas aid) this is quite difficult to do. Getting from the Sudan to the single currency taxes even the most flexible imagination.

But in Questions to the Deputy Prime Minister it is terribly easy. That is because Mr Heseltine is – as we know – responsible for everything. Mr Major made him responsible for everything to compensate him for failing to gain the leadership. But something has gone wrong. As one listens to Hezza tackle questions on small business, privatisation, competitiveness, information technology and – above all – "policy co-ordination", one becomes increasingly aware that in this case, more is less. This may explain why John Prescott is letting it be known that – when the Red Revolution comes – he does not wish to be put within a million versts of "policy co-ordination".

But even if he is doing nothing, Hezza is doing it magnificently. A weekend in the sun had left him with a fabulous tan, his hair and eyebrows a deep gold. The latter, increasingly Healeyesque, resemble the wings on a golden eagle. One day soon – mid-peroration – they will propel Mr Heseltine skywards, from where he will smile down upon us.

But, back to Europbobe Teddy Taylor. Speaking in his tiresome "more in sorrow than in anger" voice, he asked about "the tragic resignation of a very sincere and able minister". Just how deep a tragedy this was for Eurosceptics could be gleaned from their broad grins and animated, excited conversations.

Riding to Mr Heseltine's aid came the insubstantial figure of Robert Spink. I have always thought that Spink was too small a name to cover a whole human being; a quick gob and its gone. What Mr Spink wanted to know was this: would Mr Heseltine ensure that good news was disseminated to the country this summer? Now that did make Mr Prescott laugh.

Fury as Major meets terrorist

COLIN BROWN
Chief political Correspondent

John Major met two Loyalist politicians with terrorist convictions in Downing Street last night in a clear signal to Sinn Fein that they will be brought into talks if the IRA call a ceasefire.

The meeting, which included John White, a convicted murderer and former member of the Ulster Defence Association, outraged Lord Fitt, the SDLP peer. But Mr Major's decision to "take a risk" was praised by Michael Mates, the former Northern Ireland Minister who has acted as go-between for the Government with the IRA.

"If it is going to be resolved and if former terrorists on both sides are going to be involved in a solution, some exceedingly nasty people on both sides are going to have to be spoken to," Mr Mates said.

The Tory MP said it was important to highlight the difference between the Loyalists paramilitaries who had declared a ceasefire which was holding, and the IRA, who had resumed the violence.

Mr Major's invitation to the Loyalists might persuade the IRA that if they called a ceasefire they could be also brought into the talks. "If a ceasefire had existed on both sides, it is ... possible the Prime Minister would be seeing the IRA terrorists as well," Mr Mates said.

Mr Major's meeting was intended to put pressure on Sinn Fein and the IRA to resume the ceasefire, enabling Sinn Fein to join the all-party talks, this week nearing a conclusion before a break until September.

At the meeting with Mr White were David Ervine of the Progressive Unionist Party, a former member of the Ulster Volunteer Force who was jailed for 11 years in 1975 for transporting a bomb with intent to endanger life, and Gary McMichael, leader of the UDP, whose father was a UDA commander murdered by the IRA.

■ A policeman's home in Co Antrim was petrol-bombed in an early morning attack, the RUC said yesterday.

The bomb was thrown through a window of the house at New Mossley, setting fire to furnishings. The occupant and his wife escaped unhurt.

It was the latest in a series of attacks against police officers since the Drumcree Orange parade crisis.

Street of fame: Loyalist John White, a convicted killer, outside No10 Downing Street last night — Photograph: Jane Baker

The hard men now talking peace

MICHAEL STREETER

Among the four Loyalists who met John Major yesterday are two men with serious paramilitary criminal records – a fact which has raised eyebrows in Unionist and Nationalist circles.

By far the most controversial is John White, the prisons spokesman for the Ulster Democratic Party (UDP), who was given a life sentence for the murder of SDLP Stormont Senator Paddy Wilson and his girlfriend in 1973. Responsibility for the murder, which shocked many in Unionist communities, was later claimed by the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF), which has links with the UDP.

Mr White, who served 14 years and left prison on a life licence, is described as a shadowy character, a "hard man" who can help keep Loyalist paramilitaries on track. One political observer said: "With his track record White can get Loyalist hard-liners to accept things few others could."

He was accompanied by the UDP's leader Gary McMichael, a 27-year-old life insurance salesman with no paramilitary track record; his father, John McMichael, was a well-known Loyalist hard man with strong links with the Ulster Defence Association, and he was murdered by the IRA in 1987.

The other convicted Loyalist is David Ervine, now spokesman for the Progressive Unionist Party (PUP) and a far more influential political figure than Mr White and, probably, Mr McMichael.

Mr Ervine, 43, from east Belfast, was arrested in 1975 for possessing explosives and served five years of an 11 year sentence in the Maze Prison. There, in the Ulster Voluntary Force (UVF) wing, he underwent a political transformation and on his release joined the PUP to push for a non-violent solution to the troubles.

Widely seen as the most articulate and thoughtful of the Loyalist fringe politicians, Mr Ervine has won some praise from all sides for his honesty and apparent willingness to negotiate for peace while still being able to reflect and influence UVF paramilitary thinking.

However, many Nationalists regard his relatively open stance as "too good to be true" and some wonder if he is being used by the British Government.

The PUP's leader, Hugh Smyth, also at the meeting, is an former Lord Mayor of Belfast and long-serving City Councillor, who used to sit as an Independent. The PUP is seen as representing the Unionist working classes, many of whom regard the mainstream Ulster Unionists and Democratic Unionists with suspicion.

The resignation letter

Dear Prime Minister,
On 16 May I informed you that I wanted to leave the Government. I agreed to your request that I should stay until the July reshuffle. Unfortunately, knowledge about my decision has become public. To end further uncertainty I am resigning today.

I am leaving because I can no longer support the Government's policy towards the European Union. At the Foreign Office and more recently at the Treasury I have dealt with the European Union at first hand. I have supported a policy of attempting to reform it and building a relationship which protects British interests and prevents unwarranted interference in our affairs. This policy is not working. The drive to political union in Europe is relentless and has already gone beyond what most people regard as acceptable.

In particular I am convinced that joining a single European currency would be disastrous, both politically and economically. I know we are not as yet committed to a single currency. However, the Government's equivocation on this issue is confusing to the public and disappointing to most of our supporters. When something is clearly against the national interest, it is our job as the party of the national interest to make our position clear and resist it now.

I believe we must build a new relationship with the European Union. We can have free trade in Europe without being shackled to an economic system characterised by unnecessary regulations, high costs and unemployment. We can have close political relations with our European neighbours without submitting to a federalist legal system.

It is because I see a new relationship with the European Union as essential that I have resigned from the Government and intend to speak freely from the back benches.

It has been a privilege to serve in your administration. I will, of course, continue to give you my support and do my utmost to secure the Government's re-election.

Yours ever, David

Mr Major's reply:
Dear David,
Thank you for your letter earlier today.

I regret your decision to resign, since as you know from our earlier discussions, I believe it is a mistake. We set out our position on Europe very clearly in the White Paper on our approach to the IGC. I am just as determined as you to take decisions that are in Britain's national interests, and not to saddle Britain with unnecessary regulation, high costs or unemployment.

... Whether or not we decide to join a single currency, if it proceeds it will have a significant impact on the United Kingdom. In these circumstances, I believe our national interest means we must retain our influence by being part of the negotiations and by arguing our case ... If, when the time comes, we decide it is not in Britain's interests to join, we will not do so.

I am grateful for what you have done during your time in Government, particularly as Deputy Chief Whip, Minister of State in the Foreign Office, and Paymaster General.

Yours ever,
John

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Police believe three young girls were poisoned by one or both of their parents, who also died, it emerged last night. The Asian family of five, including a five-month-old baby, were found dead in a downstairs room at their home in Southampton, Hampshire, just after midnight yesterday. Police are understood to have recovered a drugs "cocktail" and a syringe close to the bodies. There was no sign of forced entry or violence and the gas was not leaking. Post-mortem examinations revealed poison in all five bodies

The dead family was named as Mahendra Karia, 42, his wife Mayuri, 39, and daughters Chandni, four, Shrina, two and Bijal, five months. The family were said to be devout Hindus and there was speculation that the deaths may have been connected to the Hindu practice of escaping family shame by taking their own lives. *Jason Bennetto*

The Ministry of Defence is investigating how two women peace protesters managed to board a nuclear-powered submarine while it was berthed in a top-secret Royal Navy base. The women used scuba gear and the cover of darkness to enter the Clyde submarine base, home of Britain's Trident nuclear deterrent, early yesterday.

Once inside, the pair crept up the gangplank of HMS *Sceptre*, a Swiftsure Class hunter-killer submarine. Friends claimed they even had time to make a phone call from the submarine before they were finally arrested by naval personnel and handed over to MoD police. They were charged under local by-laws and with committing a breach of the peace.

Caroline Dickinson: 'Quiet, loving and gifted daughter'

The parents of Caroline Dickinson yesterday said their lives had changed forever with her murder at a youth hostel in Brittany. In a statement made through the Rev Tim Newcombe, Vicar of Launceston, John and Sue Dickinson said: "We have lost a quiet, loving and gifted daughter. Caroline's death has robbed us however, not only of a daughter, but of someone who had already become our very best friend.

"Caroline had so much to look forward to and so many plans for the future which we were doing all we could to help her fulfil. Though the circumstances in which Caroline died are a revelation of real evil, the care, love and support we have received from everyone in Launceston and far away is a great help which we really value. We are very grateful to headmaster Alan Wroath and the staff and pupils at Launceston College, to the British Embassy, the French police and the people of Pleine Fougeres for all they have done for us."

Bullying and even racism within families is a constant blight on the lives of many ethnic minority children, an analysis of calls to the charity ChildLine has revealed. Many callers to the helpline said bullying had been a feature of their entire school life, while mixed-race children facing prejudice within the family were possibly "the most unhappy we hear from", said Mary MacLeod, the organisation's research director.

The report paints a depressing picture of the problems suffered by some young people. A 12-year-old whose father died two years ago, told the helpline: "I am black and my mum is white. She has a new boyfriend who is completely racist. He is nice to me when my mum or friends are there but is horrible when we are alone. He says things like, 'you need a bath'." *Patricia Wynn Davies*

The Government last night fought off, by just 14 votes, a last-ditch Lords bid to give refugees three days' grace to claim asylum before losing their right to welfare benefits. Voting was 182 to 168, rejecting a move whose backers included the Labour peers' deputy leader, Lord McIntosh of Haringey, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Runcie, the ex-Chief Rabbi, Lord Jakobovits, and the former Labour minister and ex-SDP founder, Baroness Williams of Crosby (Lib Dem).

The vote upholds last week's Commons decision restoring ministers' original plans which require asylum seekers to state their aim upon entry to the country. Home Secretary Michael Howard's controversial Asylum and Immigration Bill, aimed at curbing bogus asylum-seekers, now goes for Royal Assent.

Britain will join France and Germany in setting up a new armaments co-operation agency, the Government announced yesterday. The three countries will also work together to develop a new armoured troop-carrier to enter service in 2007.

The British army needs about 2,000 of the new Multi-Role Armoured Vehicles to replace the ageing FV-430 series of tracked vehicles, known, derisively as "skips", and also the 1970s Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance series including Spartan and Scimitar. *Christopher Bellamy*

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Danger in the air: Airline incidents and crash of historic warplane highlight pressures on maintaining safety in the air

Servicing the dream: Kim Stazaker working on a flying Mustang P51 at Duxford Air Museum Photograph: Brian Harris

Biggles factor propels wartime aircraft back into the skies

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY
Defence Correspondent

How can it be that the number of Second World War aircraft capable of flying has increased dramatically in the past decade? The answer lies with the enthusiasts who devote their time to restoring them.

In spite of occasional crashes, such as the loss of Britain's only flying Mosquito fighter-bomber on Sunday, a powerful lobby believes that historic aircraft belong in the air. The difference, they say, is between stuffed animals in a museum, and living animals in a zoo.

"There are several thousand of these aeroplanes worldwide, most of them in the US," said Stephen Grey, head of the Fighter Collection based at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, Cambridgeshire. "Ten years ago there were three or four Spitfires flying in the world: now there are 25. There were about 40 Mustangs – now there are 100. Fifteen years ago there was one Lancaster: now there are two, and others are under restoration."

Restored to flight

Piston-engined military aircraft flying, worldwide

	Mid-1980s	Now
Spitfire	3-4	25
Lancaster	1	2
Mosquito	0	2-3
Beaufighter	0	1
Mustang	40	100
B-17 Flying Fortress	N/A	10
Me-109	0	3-4

The loving care lavished on historic aircraft is not limited to Allied planes. A decade ago, of the 22,000 German Me-109 fighters built, none were flying. Now, Mr Grey said, three or four are flying and a similar number are being restored.

The privately sponsored Fighter Collection, with 18 flying aircraft and 13 undergoing restoration, is only one of many in Europe. The RAF's Battle Of Britain Memorial Flight, whose aircraft take part in official fly-pasts, has one Hurricane and another being restored, a Lancaster, and five Spitfires. The Navy retains its own Historic Flight, with a Sea Fury, a Firefly and two Swordfish.

More effort is now put into restoring the aircraft than would have been expended on them in wartime, when they were built. Engine and propeller parts can be taken from aircraft too damaged to restore. Other parts – wooden and aluminium spars, structural parts and rivets – are made from scratch.

When an old aeroplane crashes, it is usually through "human error". The aircraft, designed for war, were usually pushed to the limit in their development: large numbers were expected to be shot down, and safety was not a priority.

"They're big gyroscopes, essentially, with an enormous propeller on the front," said Mr Grey. "If something goes wrong it's a question of knowing what to do." He refused to speculate on the cause of Sunday's accident. But in previous cases, he said, pilots had been distracted, or had made simple errors.

The determination to keep historic aircraft flying stems from the belief that there is more to history than the mere artefact.

"It's not a glorification of war," said Mr Grey. "The jet has obviously been an amazing technological change. Piston-engine technology has reached its end. That's a reason for maintaining it. Historically it's pretty important to see these things in their prime element, which is in the air. How would a child know what a Spitfire is, if he just saw it in a museum?"

Loophole on foreign aircraft to be closed

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR
Transport Correspondent

Tighter controls over foreign-licensed aircraft are likely to be introduced next summer because of concern over a series of air-safety incidents.

Sir Malcolm Field, the new chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, said yesterday that a review of the regulatory regime for foreign aircraft being operated from the UK is to be carried out in the autumn.

The issue has become prominent because of the crash of the Turkish-registered Birgenair Boeing 757 in the Dominican Republic in February. The jet was carrying German tourists between the Caribbean and Germany, and yet the aircraft was registered and regulated in a third country.

Last month, passengers in Florida due to travel on an Antiguan-licensed DC10 belonging to Excalibur Airways refused to board the aircraft because smoke had entered the cabin. The airline went out of business shortly afterwards.

Similarly, British holidaymakers have found themselves on various foreign-owned aircraft although they have booked with British tour companies.

Yesterday, at the launch of the CAA's annual report, Mike Willett, head of safety operations, said that once given a licence, British tour operators could charter aircraft from any carrier in the world. He said that most airlines were safe and "there are very few airlines that I would not fly in".

The CAA accepts that there is a loophole. Aircraft from carriers which are registered in Third World countries are often not maintained to the same standards as those of Western operators, even though the countries are signatories to the Chicago Convention which lays down internatinnal safety standards.

The problem for the CAA is that regulating these carriers will be expensive, involving both inspection of maintenance records and checking cockpit procedures of air crew.

Moreover, if tour operators are banned from calling in these aircraft at short notice, then passengers at peak times in the summer are likely to find themselves stranded for long periods either in Britain or at their foreign destination because no replacement aircraft will be available.

Concern over safety will be highlighted again later this week when British Midland is prosecuted at Luton Crown Court over an incident in which one of its Boeing 737s, with 180 people on board, nearly ran out of oil because of a maintenance error. The Air Accidents Investigation Branch will ask the CAA for a review of maintenance procedures following this incident and two others where lives were put at risk by maintenance failures of UK operators.

The CAA also warned yesterday that passengers faced a small surcharge next year to ensure that people stranded as a result of the failure of travel firms can be be brought back or be reimbursed.

The Air Travel Trust Fund, set up in the 1970s following the failure of the tour operator Clarkson, has been depleted by a recent spate of tour firm failures and the CAA has had to borrow £3m to compensate passengers and run emergency charter flights. Now, legislation to levy about 50p off each passenger is likely to be introduced in the autumn.

DAILY POEM

The Song

By Gavin Ewart

I am a free ranging hen
and God put me on this earth
to pick up the crumbs of intelligence
I need for my artwork
the old how, the variant where, the new when.

I am the Gauloise (blue)
for many years since my birth
I have been jumbling the words into elegance,
part pleasure, part work,
and I have been smoked by the many, bought by the few.

I am a sandwich fresh cut,
eat me aurally, near the bone
and juicy the ham was, desiccated
the pub clock will make it –
catch me by the vanishing rabbit's quick scut.

I am a bottle of wine,
the wrath in my grapes homegrown,
drink me: those who hesitated
were never able to take it.
Slup me rough and homely and I'll taste fine.

"Gavin Ewart wrote delightful poems on almost any subject, but the prodigality, cleverness and sheer high spirits of his verse were often bright clothes covering great depth of feeling," writes **Tony Whittome**, his editor at Hutchinson for 20 years. "Before he died in October 1995, he had compiled for us a new volume of *Selected Poems*, published this week. He chose as its epigraph 'The Song', one of his poems which sums up both the delight and seriousness of his work."

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24 Hour Strike on Friday 26th July

- There will be few letter deliveries and collections on Friday 26th July.
- Deliveries and collections will resume on Saturday 27 th July.
- We recommend that you avoid posting letters on Friday this week.

48 Hour Strike on Wednesday 31st July and Thursday 1st August

- Collection and deliveries will be affected on Wednesday 31st July and Thursday 1st August.

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Royal Mail

Mayors could lead Labour's 'wise spenders'

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
Public Policy Editor

A "positive debate" on Labour's proposals to elect mayors for major cities will be called for today by Tony Blair, the Labour leader, in a speech which will bluntly warn local authorities that they cannot expect big spending to return under a Labour government.

"In government, we will not be big spenders but wise spenders," Mr Blair is expected to tell councillors at the Shadow assembly of the new Local Government Association.

"The future of local government will not be based on spending an increased share of the national cake, but on improved efficiency and ensuring that every council sees its aim as matching the performance of the best." That means that while compulsory competitive tendering will go, councils will face a new duty of seeking best value for money – an approach which, Labour analysts believe, will mean some competitive tendering will continue. And government will retain a right to intervene if a council is not judged to seek best value. The "democratic renewal" which Mr Blair promises will include involving the public more in council decision making – and a "positive debate" on elected mayors.

But academics and management experts yesterday warned that the seemingly simple idea embraces a host of very different models.

Across the world, mayors range from those with powers to set budgets, hire and fire staff and veto a council's legislation, a model common in US cities, to limited formal powers, with clout coming from an electoral mandate, political skills and personality – as in New Zealand.

"The more you look at elected mayors," according to Gerry Stoker, Professor of Government at Strathclyde University, who has just completed a study of German and Italian mayors, "the more you realise the variation that can be achieved."

Even within one country, such as Germany, differing models abound. In Hessen, Professor Stoker says, the mayor is directly elected but a cabinet is then appointed by the assembly, so "to get anything done, you clearly need the broad agreement of mayor, cabinet and assembly." By contrast, the mayor of Heidelberg is elected for an eight-year term and has significant executive powers.

Public opinion seems to welcome the idea, however: a study by Strathclyde University last year found 70 per cent of the electorate in favour.

Leading article, page 13

High profile leaders with city solutions

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
KATE WATSON-SMYTH
CHARLIE BAINS

LONDON

London would be the obvious candidate among UK cities to have an elected mayor – but it would be the riskiest.

Since the the Greater London Council was abolished in 1986, there has been a growing demand for a return to some form of London-wide government. London First, an association of 200 top companies and City interests, is working on detailed proposals for a directly elected mayor – it prefers the term "governor" to work with eight commissioners carrying specific portfolios.

London has a plethora of local organisations, but, argues London First: "What it lacks is co-ordination and long-term planning". A directly-elected mayor would "champion London at home and abroad".

Close observers calculate that most leaders of Labour-controlled boroughs in London are against the idea, and the Conservatives remain deeply resistant to it.

That has not prevented speculation on who might run for "governor": Tony Banks, Labour MP and ex-GLC councillor; Simon Hughes, Liberal Democrat MP; Michael Cassidy, policy chairman (in effect, leader) of the City of London; Heather Rabbatts, go-getting chief executive of Lambeth; even Lord Sheppard, Conservative ex-chairman of Grand Metropolitan, who is chairman of London First.

OXFORD

A high-profile city leader could help Oxford solve its growing congestion problem and also change the city's "town and gown" image. The Labour-controlled city council favours an elected mayor to help speed decisions regarding city centre congestion, and promote the city as an industrial centre as well as one of learning and tourism.

Among the names thrown up were those of the former leader of the Labour Group on Oxfordshire County Council, James Plasket, and the Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Lord Jenkins.

LEEDS

If Harvey Nichols, the favoured shop of the rich and famous, is prepared to open its first regional branch in Leeds, it could be argued that the city has no need of an elected mayor to raise its profile.

The store has followed a number of businesses which in recent years have flocked to Leeds – now the biggest financial services centre outside the capital. Aided by an imaginative licensing policy, the city boasts large numbers of clubs and cafés, and many residents have a high disposable income.

The council has worked hard to raise the profile of Leeds and, under Jon Trickett, set up the 24-Hour City Initiative to bring business and community leaders together to discuss the city's regeneration.

Mr Trickett, now Labour MP for Hemsworth, would be an obvious candidate, but both he and the present city council argue that Leeds has no need for an elected representative.

LIVERPOOL

Liverpool is one city with experience of "city bosses". For many years Liberal Sir Trevor Jones ran the city council, only to be followed by the turbulent reign of Derek Hatton. The city is now fiercely proud of its recovery, and recently scored Objective One status, a European regeneration award amounting to £1.2 billion, which will see it through to the year 2000

The refurbished Albert Dock is among the top five British tourist attractions, and Paul McCartney has ploughed millions of pounds into the Institute of Performing Arts.

Perhaps the Hatton era turned the city against the idea of an elected leader. Christopher Gibaud of the Mersey Partnership, whose remit is to raise the region's profile, says an elected mayor would turn the "emasculated local authorities into a snake-pit of confusion".

Purely ceremonial: London's Lord Mayor's parade. A mayor with real powers could be a champion for the city

More power to take action than the President

BALTIMORE

Mayor Schmoke, a celebrated national figure who is close to President Clinton, belongs to new breed of pragmatic, technocratic black American mayors whose policies have not been defined by race politics. A Yale-educated Rhodes scholar, he has been accused by critics of being too cerebral, lacking in the common touch. But more often he has drawn praise.

He has been mayor of Baltimore since 1987, having been elected for the third successive time last November. His most notable successes have been in adult education and urban renewal. His popularity among all races in a city that is 60 per cent black saw him win the last election with 78 per cent of the vote.

Mr Schmoke is blessed by the city's statutes with a high measure of autonomy. The city council, a legislative body, approves the budget. But the mayor controls it. He signs the cheques for the city's 28,500 municipal employees; he appoints the heads of departments, including the commissioner of police, and they enforce his policies. "They do what he says. They're his army," said Clinton Coleman, the mayor's press secretary.

STRASBOURG

Ms Trautmann, a theologian and native of Alsace, is regarded as one of France's most successful mayors, combining the roles of adept local administrator and high-profile ambassador for her city in France and in Europe. Aged 45, she was first elected mayor in 1989 against the city's reputation as a right-wing stronghold. Last June she was convincingly re-elected for a second term against the national trend to the right. She remains the only female mayor of any French city with a population of more than 100,000.

When she became mayor, Strasbourg was wracked by social divisions which are more extreme than almost anywhere else in France. Immigration was a major issue and environmental worries also loomed large. The two most visible results of Mme Trautmann's first term in office were the Strasbourg tramway, which links outlying suburbs to the city centre and has removed cars from much of the city centre, and the Strasbourg affiliate branch of the elite Paris business school, ENA. She has successfully argued for keeping European Parliament sessions in her city.

A French mayor is directly elected by dint of heading the victorious party or coalition list in the six-yearly local elections and combines the functions that are exercised separately in Britain by the lord mayor and council chairman.

He or she earns a salary related to the population of the city or village (around 20,000 francs a month for Strasbourg) and controls the city budget, which includes spending on school and community buildings council housing and local transport.

NAPLES

Naples was a byword for modern urban trash. Generations of sleazy, incompetent municipal councils had turned the city of the Grand Tour, a Baroque jewel nestling at the foot of Mount Vesuvius, into a sprawling industrial city choking on smog and anarchic poverty.

In 1993, the very nadir of its postwar history, Naples was formally declared bankrupt and its traffic lights were turned off for two months to save money - not that anybody noticed since traffic lights had long since lost their meaning amid the chaos. But then the messiah finally arrived in the shape of Antonio Bassolino, a charismatic local left-winger who won the mayor's office in a tight electoral race against Alessandra Mussolini, granddaughter of the Duce, in December 1993. In little more than two years, the centre has been cleaned up and partly pedestrianised, traffic has been reorganised to run more smoothly, museums and public buildings have been made more accessible and street festivals have been revived. Above all, Naples has recovered its self-esteem.

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Blair moves to placate unions over strike law

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

Tony Blair yesterday moved to calm the nerves of senior union leaders, privately assuring them that Labour had no plans to introduce a law to enforce binding arbitration in the public services, currently hit by a wave of stoppages.

While some of Mr Blair's colleagues believe that such a "no-strike" regime could be a means of avoiding disruption, unions have made it clear that such a system would end in a bureaucratic quagmire with every petty argument ending up in the hands of an arbiter.

The strong disagreement among senior figures in the labour movement comes at a time when unions are planning more strikes on London Underground, postal workers are scheduled to stage another day-long walkout on Friday, civil servants have voted for stoppages at the Benefits Agency, and firefighters in Derbyshire announced further disruption.

Mr Blair has now moved, however, to placate trade unionists and it is understood that those in the Labour Party who are considering plans for compulsory arbitration have been told to keep their views to themselves. His assurance will inevitably lead to Tory accusations that Labour has once more bowed to its "paymasters".

As the Labour leader held one of his regular but secretive "contact group" meetings with trade unionists, Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, confirmed a threat to lift the Royal Mail's monopoly on delivering letters for less than £1 unless employees abandoned their plan for a strike on Friday.

Talks between management and postal workers' representatives continued at the conciliation service Acas last night, and the postal executive of the Communications Workers Union is due to assess progress today. The union originally intended to stage a 36-hour strike beginning on Friday but has since curtailed it to 24 hours as an "olive branch" – although it is believed that some CWU members objected to the longer stoppage.

Elsewhere in the public sector, the CPSA Whitehall union announced a vote for strike action among members in the Benefits Agency concerned about their safety when the Jobseekers' Allowance is introduced in the autumn. Staff are worried that the strict rules may provoke angry scenes, and the union is seeking the reintroduction of security screens for protection. The narrow majority for strike action – 5,449 to 4,434 in a 40 per cent turnout – may make it difficult, however, for the union to press ahead with stoppages.

The London Underground dispute remains deadlocked with two further stoppages planned within the next seven days – one on Thursday and another next Monday and six more after that.

In Derbyshire, leaders of 800 firefighters announced another four strikes in protest at cuts in spending which the Fire Brigades Union believes will result in the loss of 80 jobs.

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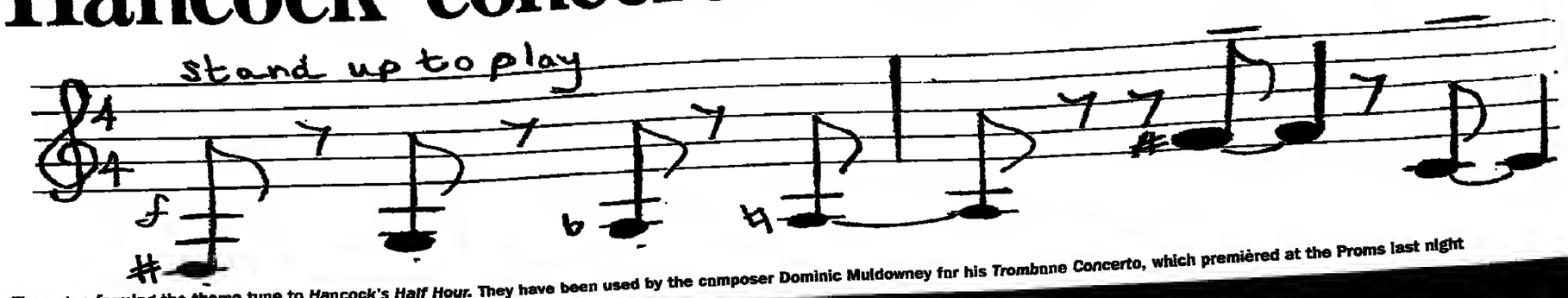
Hancock 'concerto' lifts veil on talent



The notes forming the theme tune to *Hancock's Half Hour*. They have been used by the composer Dominic Muldowney for his *Trombone Concerto*, which premièred at the Proms last night

MARK PAPPENHEIM

The new season of the Proms has confirmed its commitment to the best of contemporary British composition by fielding both the venerable Sir Michael Tippett alongside new talent such as Dominic Muldowney, whose new concerto based on the theme tune from *Hancock's Half Hour* was premièred last night.

As director of music at the Royal National Theatre for the past 15 years, Muldowney's music has probably been heard by more people than most composers aspire to. But his new work, *Trombone Concerto* – designed to exploit both the comic and serious sides to the slide trombone by interweaving a musical tribute to JS Bach with the Hancock tune – is just the sort of high-profile exposure Muldowney, 44, deserves.

The BBC should feel ashamed for not televising it, or any of the other new works this year. The Proms' recent hit rate with new works has shown a distinct improvement. Both John Tavener, with the plangent, soaring cello lines of his *The Protecting Veil*, and James MacMillan, with the nightmare

witchery of his *Confession of Isobel Gowdie*, have scored popular successes that have gone on to extended life on CD and in the concert hall.

Partly this is a reflection of a genuine flowering of British talent over the past decade or so, a flowering that has taken root on the world stage too.

Even as the hecklers were massing to disrupt performances of the music of Sir Harrison Birtwistle – the modernist *bête noire* of the unreconstructed romantics – foreign foundations were queuing up to shower him with cash-rich prizes: $150,000 (£100,000) from the Grawemeyer Award, 250,000DM (£108,000) from Siemens. The mysterious Rex Foundation, unmasked as the cultural wing of psychedelic Sixties rock group, the Grateful Dead, has channelled funds into new works by such artists as James Dillon and Michael Finnissy, both proud pupils of the "New Complexity" school.

Slide show: The Swedish trombonist, Christian Lindberg, who will lead tribute by Muldowney (left) to Tony Hancock (top left) Photograph: Cisi Burn

Among the more mainstream modernists, approachable composers such as Oliver Knussen, Colin Matthews and Mark-Anthony Turnage are all making waves on the world scene. John Tavener, high priest of the so-called "Faith Minimalists", was last year honoured with an entire festival of his works in Athens.

At 91, Sir Michael is the senior composer represented in this year's Proms. In September there will be performances of his 1950s *Corelli Fantasia* and his more recent orchestral piece, *The Rose Lake*, but he has already made an appearance to present the Gold Medal of the Royal Philharmonic Society to the 87-year-old Elliott Carter. The American's *Fifth String Quartet* has just received its London première as the centrepiece of a new series of lunchtime chamber music Proms to be performed every Monday in the Britten Theatre of the Royal College of Music.

Although Carter has had work commissioned for the Proms, Sir Michael, stalwart of British music, has never been so honoured. The nearest the Proms ever got was to present the London première of *Corelli Fantasia* back in 1953.

Even Benjamin Britten, until his death surely Tippett's sole rival for the title of Britain's leading post-war composer, was only ever commissioned once.

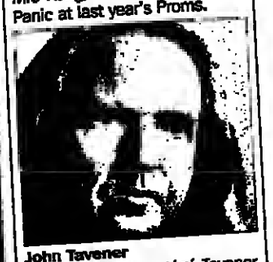
Few of the works specifically composed for the Royal Albert Hall have ever gone on to join the mainstream: all too often, budding young (and even older) composers, presented with that unique audience, atmosphere and acoustic, have created pieces that work only in the spacious setting of the Albert Hall.

Whatever the audience response, though, Muldowney has scored highly on one point: he did at least complete his piece on time, unlike several more famous names in the Proms past.

And remembering how the "Lad himself" appreciated the "Unfinished Symphony", it's a good thing too.

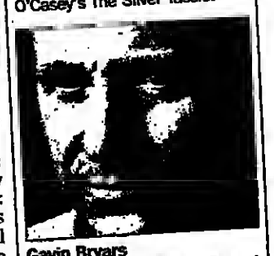
British talent in full bloom

Sir Harrison Birtwistle
Bogeyman of anti-modernists, the 62-year-old Accrington-born composer is now household name, thanks to his opera, The Second Mrs Kong, and the ear-splitting Panic at last year's Proms.



John Tavener
Former Beatles protégé Tavener made his Proms comeback in 1989 with The Protecting Veil. His works clear a path through the impenetrability of modern music.

Mark-Anthony Turnage
Self-styled Essex boy and artistic director of the English National Opera Studio, Turnage is working on a new operatic version of Sean O'Casey's The Silver Tassle.



Gavin Bryars
Part-time patafysician, Bryars' Jesus' Blood Never Failed Me Yet was a chart hit. Dr Ox's Experiment will appear at ENO next year.

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Amnesty to condemn Israel over Qana massacre

ROBERT FISK
Beirut

Israel will come under scathing criticism from Amnesty International tomorrow when the organisation publishes its report on the massacre of civilians at the UN's headquarters in Qana and on other civilian casualties of Israel's April bombardment of southern Lebanon.

According to sources in Beirut, Amnesty's investigation team – which included a retired Dutch army general and which visited both Lebanon and Israel – has concluded that the Israeli attack on the UN compound at Qana, in which over 100 civilians died, was deliberate and that Israel's own inquiry into the killings was cursory.

Amnesty – whose report is said to be much more critical than that of the UN's own investigators, who concluded that it was "unlikely" the Israelis shelled Qana in error – is also believed to have harsh words for the Hizbollah, criticising its irresponsibility for firing mortars at Israeli troops from close to the Qana compound when they must have realised the danger to civilians sheltering near by.

It is now known that the Amnesty team was told by UN officials in Lebanon that only a day before Israel's assault on the UN's Fijian battalion headquarters at Qana, another attack – hitherto unrevealed – took place against a UN Nepalese battalion post at Majdel Zun in southern Lebanon. Eight Israeli shells landed inside this UN compound – some fitted with the deadly proximity fuses that slaughtered so many at Qana the following day – but on this occasion refugees had been herded into bomb shelters and there were no civilian casualties. There had been no prior warnings from the Israelis before the attack on the Nepalese and no Hizbollah fire from the vicinity prior to the Israeli shellfire.

Amnesty expressed its grave concern at the killing of Lebanese civilians at the height of Israel's bombardment but its detailed report, compiled less than a month later, is believed to concentrate on violations of "the laws of war" by both sides. It is said that it will demand compensation for Israel's civilian victims and punishment for the Israelis responsible for the Qana massacre. Sources say it also demands – unrealistically, of course – that the United States and Iran should place restrictions on the use of weapons they provide to Israel and the Hizbollah which would prevent the further killing of civilians.

Killing ground: Devastation at Qana after the Israeli shelling

The Amnesty report is also understood to condemn Israel for two other attacks on civilian targets during its "Grapes of Wrath" operation. Amnesty investigated the killing of four children and two women in a Lebanese ambulance which was attacked by an Israeli helicopter at al-Mansouri in southern Lebanon on 13 April, and the killing by another Israeli pilot of seven children and two adult civilians in their home at Nabatea on 18 April, just a few hours before the Qana slaughter. The report is said to conclude that the Israelis responsible for these killings should also be brought to justice.

The Amnesty team is known to have talked to Hizbollah as well as Israeli officials, and the report is understood to detail Hizbollah's rocket attacks upon northern Israel, something which Hizbollah leaders have openly admitted: Amnesty has already condemned such attacks as a breach of international law and is understood to have repeated this condemnation in its report.

■ In Beirut yesterday, Sayed Hassan Nasrallah, the Hizbollah leader, told journalists that his organisation had tried to find the missing Israeli airman Ron Arad who was captured by Palestinians after being shot down during a raid on Sidon in 1986. Nasrallah claimed that Arad had been mysteriously taken from his prison cell after capture but that the Hizbollah did not know his whereabouts. His press conference followed the freeing of 45 Lebanese prisoners from the Israeli jail at Khiam on Sunday and the exchange of the bodies of two Israeli soldiers for the remains of 123 Hizbollah guerrillas. When Hizbollah released 17 pro-Israeli militiamen, however, all 17 told their Israeli-paid officers that they wished to remain in Beirut.

TWA crash: Wreckage and more bodies recovered from ocean floor may provide breakthrough

Hopes rise for clues as fuselage is found

JOHN CARLIN
Washington

After five frustrated days, yesterday finally came what could be the breakthrough that investigators have been waiting for. A major part of the fuselage of TWA Flight 800 was discovered in the Atlantic ocean off New York's Long Island, along with more bodies.

The news came during a memorial service, attended by Governor George Pataki. "God works in very strange ways," said Mr Pataki. "While we were here, a major part of the fuselage has been found, additional bodies have been located and we're hopeful that your agony, struggle will come to a quicker end."

None the less, it is still unclear whether, after five days of being washed by the salty water of what has been a turbulent sea, the FBI forensic experts will be able to get their hands on the chemical evidence that is required to help establish whether the explosion which blew the Boeing 747 out of the sky was mechanical or man-made.

"It frustrates me," said Jim Kallstrom, the FBI assistant director in charge of the investigation. "I need this forensic evidence. Because if I do have a terrorist here – and I'm not saying I do ... it's another day's head start that this individual has to do whatever he's doing to cover his tracks."

On Saturday some excitement was generated by the announcement that naval sonar devices had come across what Robert Francis, vice-chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, described as "a large piece of something".

Maybe it was the plane's fuselage. But then, on Sunday, when a vessel equipped with an underwater video camera was dispatched to the area, the camera failed. The prospects of finding the black boxes containing the flight data and cockpit voice recorders remain gloomy. The boxes are supposed to emit pinging sounds easily detectable by sonar detectors, but not one ping has been heard yet. As Mr Francis told NBC, "It's a big ocean out there."

In the meantime, the CIA has asked Israel to check the Athens-New York passenger list of the TWA plane for people with links to "terror" groups, an Israeli newspaper reported yesterday.

"The American intelligence agency gave Israel's Mossad [secret service] the passenger list of the TWA plane from Athens to New York and asked that it check the passengers' backgrounds to reveal if one of them had connections to a terror group." Israel's largest-selling daily, *Yedioth Ahronoth*, reported.

The unsourced report said that the CIA had made the same request of Jordan and Egypt.

Israeli officials were not immediately available for comment. Israeli security sources would not confirm or deny the report, but one spokesman said: "There is cooperation."

US investigators said on Sunday that without finding additional wreckage they would not be able to say conclusively if TWA Flight 800 was downed by an act of sabotage.

On Friday, Israel's *Haaretz* newspaper quoted an unidentified senior security source as saying Israel was helping US intelligence agencies and the FBI in the investigation.

In London, the Iranian embassy said it had complained to the *Times* about a report saying the destruction of TWA flight 800 may have been caused by Iranians. "It is much to our surprise that the *Times* is using any tragic event in the world to distort the image of the Iranians," a letter, signed by Mohammad Safaei, deputy head of Iran's diplomatic mission, said.

Friends and relatives of victims of the TWA disaster at a memorial service in St Louis yesterday. There were 230 balloons, one for each person on the aeroplane which crashed off Long Island Photograph: Mary Buktus/AP

Four die in Pakistan airport bombing

Lahore (Reuter) — Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto vowed yesterday to fight terrorists with an "iron hand" after a bomb blast at Lahore airport killed at least four people and wounded 68.

A second bomb in another town in Punjab wounded eight people, the provincial chief minister Mohammad Arif Nakai said.

Police said earlier that the Lahore explosion, at a food stall outside a domestic departure lounge at the airport, killed six people and wounded more than 50. But Mr Nakai later said that four people were killed and 68 injured by the blast, which he blamed on unidentified "external elements".

There was no immediate claim of responsibility or information about who had set off the bomb, the latest in a series of such attacks in Punjab – the country's most populous province. The attacks have killed 70 people and wounded hundreds more.

A senior police official, who asked not to be named, said he suspected a "foreign hand". In the past, the authorities have accused intelligence networks from India of sponsoring bomb attacks in Punjab in retaliation for Pakistan's support for militants fighting Indian rule in Kashmir. India has denied the charges.

Ms Bhutto, who is visiting South Korea, condemned the Lahore attack in a message which said: "Terrorists are out to terrorise the people and government of Pakistan." State television quoted her as declaring she would not compromise with terrorists and would "deal with them with an iron hand".

Political sources said the bombings were likely to put Ms Bhutto under fresh pressure from opponents already accusing the government of failing to maintain the peace or to check corruption.

Spain takes hard line on terror

JANE WALKER
Madrid
PETER VICTOR

The Spanish government yesterday announced that security is being stepped up along the Costa Dorada around Barcelona and Tarragona following the weekend bombs in which 30 Britons were injured.

The Spanish government is expected to adopt tough new anti-terrorist measures this week. Miguel Angel Rodriguez, the secretary of state for communications, refused to give details, but said that an announcement would be made later this week.

In the latest Eta summer bombing campaign, 14 bombs have been placed in areas frequented by foreign tourists since 9 July.

Police are searching for two men who were seen acting suspiciously near the Hotel Augustus in Cramhils on Sunday evening. Five hundred guests, mostly German and Dutch, were evacuated from the hotel before police found and defused the small packet containing around 500g of explosive material and a timing device hidden in a window.

Of the 34 people injured in the blast at Reus Airport on Saturday evening, 12 were still in hospital yesterday.

Police suspect that a cleaner, who was the most seriously injured, could have triggered the airport bomb prematurely when she emptied a waste bin in the bar in the departure area where the bomb had been hidden.

A telephone call to a Basque newspaper warned that the bomb had been timed to explode between 8 and 8.30pm. Police had not had time to evacuate the crowded airport terminal when the bomb went off 20 minutes early. The metal waste bin shattered into hundreds of pieces, scattering fragments which caused shrapnel injuries to the victims. Condemnation of the latest Eta bombing campaign, which is similar to ones inflicted on the Spanish Costas every summer for almost a decade, has been universal.

Eta is attempting to damage the Spanish economy by targeting its vital tourist industry. More than 40 million tourists visit Spain each year, four and a half million of them from Britain.

However, Costa Dorada hoteliers appeared yesterday to be more worried about the threat from terrorist bombs than their clients. The beaches were crowded as normal, and visitors had to search Salou beach for space on which to spread their towels. Most hotels in the area are full to capacity, with few cancellations from tourists.

The Foreign Office said yesterday that it was modifying its advice to tourists in Spain after the events of last weekend, but was not clear what the new advice would be.

"The final wording of our advice is still being worked on, but we are certainly not telling people not to go to Spain," said a spokesman. "Obviously, people planning a Spanish holiday must bear in mind what's been happening."

"There have been occasions, in other areas, when we have advised people against travelling. But in this case we are asking people to be vigilant and use common sense."

The advice is prepared by the Foreign Office's travel advice bureau which is attached to the consular division.

The bureau liaises with consulate or embassy officials in the area concerned, as well as Foreign Office officials, before finalising the wording of advice bulletins.

The Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) is closely monitoring the advice and will pass it on to tour operators and travel agents.

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Problems for the parks: From the US to Africa, changing holiday patterns and budget crises menace the world's great outdoors

Tourists trek into a financial wilderness

DAVID USBORNE
Yellowstone

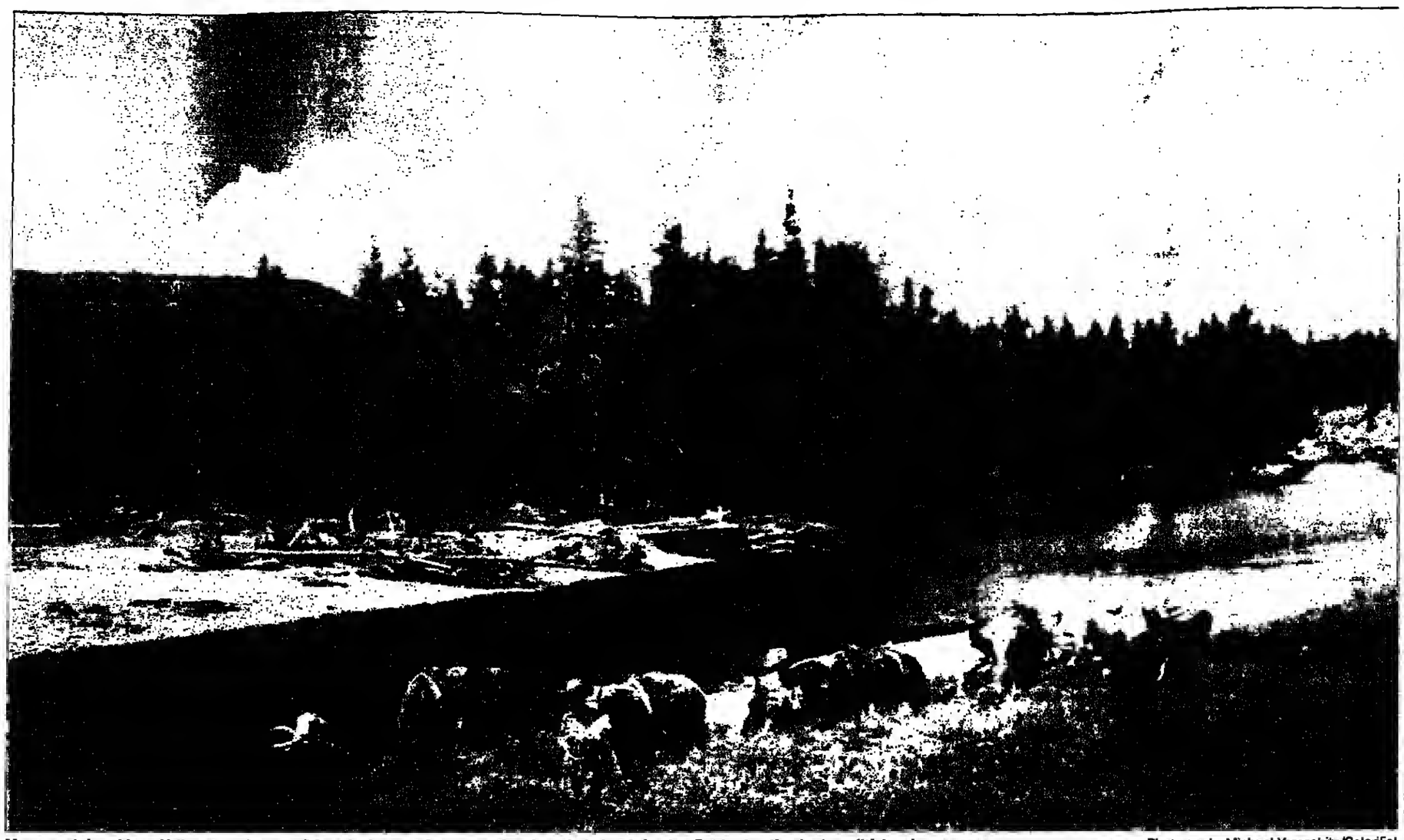
"FOR ALL THE PEOPLE TO ENJOY." So declares the inscription atop the stone arch at the north entrance to the Yellowstone National Park. What it does not go on to say is: "So long as someone pays for it". Why should it? America's famed park system is a sacred, national birthright.

But you need only drive a few yards further to the log-cabin welcome station to discover that at this park, as at dozens of others across the nation, all is not well. Down the list of the park's facilities two freshly-painted "closed" signs are posted. A story in the give-away park newspaper ominously trumpets: "Yellowstone National Park: just one step from insolvency".

The parks are basically broke and this summer, when the tourist swarms are at their peak, visitors are for the first time being forced to take notice. Campgrounds, trails and other attractions are closed, rangers are fewer in number and roads are crumbling beneath the rush of cars and mobile homes. The picture is the same whether you are here or at Yosemite, Glacier, Grand Canyon, or any of the scores of lesser-known parks across the country.

One obvious culprit is the low entrance fee. At Yellowstone a carload of passengers will pay only $10 (£6.50) for the privilege of touring the park for a whole week, not a cent more than when the park was established in 1916.

More critical, however, is the squeeze being applied by the politicians in Washington, who, in their frenzy to wean all dependents of the state from federal funding, have seen little reason to exempt the parks. Since 1993 the system's budget in real terms has dropped by $202m, or 17 per cent.



Monumental problem: Yellowstone is one of America's most famous national symbols but it is also flat broke, thanks to politicians' meanness

Photograph: Michael Yamashita/Colorific!

No park has stirred more controversy than the most famous, Yellowstone. After briefly considering the closure of a large part of its territory, the park opted to close a museum and campground at its second-most visited geyser area, the Norris Geyser. The move provoked fury from state politicians in Wyoming who were worried about tourist revenue, while visitors to Norris constantly express dismay.

"I just think that this is very, very sad, it really fries me," comments Kurt Speidel, a California schoolteacher, pausing outside the closed doors of the Norris museum. "This park is part of our diplomacy, people come from all over the world to see it. And what they find is this – because the Republican politicians think the park is good enough as it is, and go visit their fancy guest ranches instead."

Don Striker, Yellowstone's embattled budget director, understands the bitterness but makes no apology for the closures, which may, after all, send a message about the depth of the park's plight. "We've been dealing with this more or less invisibly for a few years already but this year we just hit bottom," he said. "Maybe there is an element of political statement in this, but it was definitely time to let people know what is happening".

Congress, meanwhile, does have some ideas on how to save the parks. One bill under consideration would allow them to set entrance fees, and presumably raise them. A second, which has the support of President Bill Clinton, envisages a more radical step towards privatisation. For the first time it would allow limited forms of corporate sponsorship for the parks. Advocates of sponsorship say it would raise an extra $1bn for the system over 10 years and could be managed tastefully.

The current proposal, for instance, suggests that only 10 corporations would have the chance to become "sponsors" of the parks. They would be barred from displaying their logos within the parks but could plug their support for the parks in their advertising campaigns. The pay-off for the companies would be public goodwill for their show of generous altruism.

Critics believe the plan would be the thin end of the wedge, however. Pointing to the corporate overload currently on display at the centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta, where Coca Cola and Visa are vying with the athletes for the world's attention, they envisage such horrors as "Old Faithful, brought to you by the battery that just keeps on going", or, "The Disney Grand Canyon".

"It would certainly help," says Mr Striker of the sponsorship plan, before adding: "But you don't want McDonalds emblazoned on the bison".

Jeff Dean, another disgruntled visitor at the Norris area, goes further: "Old Faithful is brought to us by nature, it is not brought to us by some company."

Another concern is that while corporations might be happy to bankroll the most famous of the parks, they would have no interest in maintaining the less visited ones.

All told, the parks say they face a combined cash shortfall of $4bn if all urgent maintenance projects are undertaken. The Grand Canyon National Park has already formally declared itself bankrupt while the Timpanogos Cave National Monument in Utah has said it will turn away up to 10,000 visitors this year because it has no rangers to guide them. Some in Congress, meanwhile, are debating a third bill to begin the process of stripping the national park designation from some parks which are considered least worthy.

There is one other possible scenario for salvation: a return of Democrat majorities in the Congress and some moderation of Washington's current budget-cutting frenzy. Failing that, there may be still more engraving to be done on Yellowstone's north arch: the addition of a smiling Mickey Mouse.

Kenyans desperate to see a vanishing species on safari

DAVID ORR
Nairobi

With the approach of the holiday high season in East Africa, tourism operators in Kenya are anxiously wondering if the country can regain the lion's share of this lucrative market.

Once king of the safari scene, Kenya has been toppled from its plinth. Last year the number of tourists fell by an alarming 20 per cent, from 863,000 to 690,000. Earnings from tourism, the country's main source of foreign exchange, fell by 11 per cent.

In recent years, visitors wishing to view the "Big Five" – elephants, lions, rhinos, buffalos and leopards – have increasingly turned their sights southwards.

With South Africa and Zimbabwe now drawing a greater number of holidaymakers, Kenya has only just managed to retain its place among the continent's "Big Five" tourist destinations. Ahead of it, in order, lie South Africa, Tunisia, Morocco and Zimbabwe.

The Kenyan government has become so concerned about the falling number of tourists that President Daniel arap Moi recently appointed a new organisation, the Kenya Tourist Board, to re-establish the country as a prime destination. At its head is a former British Airways executive, Brian Davies, the managing director of the national airline, Kenya Airways.

"An air of crisis has developed", Mr Davies admits. "But the situation is far from hopeless. Kenya is the best-known wildlife destination in the world. The wildlife in this country is unique. What is needed is massive promotion of Kenya's assets. If we can launch a satisfactory promotion campaign, we could start to see its impact by next year."

Britain accounts for the largest percentage of visitors to Kenya. Hence the Tourist Board's decision to focus its attentions on the World Travel Market, the leading tourism trade fair held in London towards the end of the year.

To sustain its promotion campaign, Mr Davies believes the Board will need an annual budget of up to £10m per annum. A request for "start-up" funding has been made to the European Union.

Like many other developing countries around the world, Kenya has been faced with the dilemma of whether to promote itself as an exclusive, or a package, destination. The government until recently pursued a goal of "One Million Tourists by the Year 2000." But this year, following the example of neighbouring Tanzania, which wants to keep its annual quota at half a million arrivals, the authorities have started talking of more limited, eco-tourism.

"Mass tourism lowers the image of the country and destroys the environment", Mr Davies says. "We should go up-market. The quantity of tourists is not so important, it's more about how much people spend."

Many tour operators believe the industry's problems have been caused by a failure to diversify. While clients have become more sophisticated, the product – a few days at a game lodge followed by a trip to the coast – has remained the same. The safari cliché of a lion surrounded by 10 minibuses is all too real in the Maasai Mara and Amboseli game parks. Yet tour operators visit only seven of the 59 parks and reserves.

The Kenyan government blames bad publicity in the media. It says the coverage of Kenya's rising crime rate has been sensational and misleading.

"Kenya has been battered in the press", a spokesman for the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife says. "A lot of scaring reports about mugging and crime have been put out. We feel there's been unfair reporting about the country".

According to one tour operator, the murder of Britton Julie Ward in the Maasai Mara eight years ago continues to cast a long shadow over tourism sales.

Kenya can, however, draw solace from its nomination as "best tourist destination in Africa" in this year's *British Travel Trade Gazette* poll.

End of the road: Holidaymakers in search of big game are abandoning Kenya

Photograph: Carl Purcell/ Colorific!

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SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

A French priest at the centre of a row over the Holocaust has publicly withdrawn his support for the author of a book which suggested that the number of Jews who died could be substantially fewer than six million. Abbé Pierre, 83, a campaigner for the homeless who is much loved in France for his work with the poor, has been on retreat in an Italian monastery for the past six weeks. He shocked French and foreign opinion when he expressed support for the views of his historian friend and contemporary, Roger Garaudy, contained in his book *The founding myths of Israeli politics*. In his recantation, Abbé Pierre said: "I ask for the forgiveness of those I have hurt." Not entirely convincingly, he insisted he had taken his decision 'free from all pressure and because I wish the truth to emerge'. *Mary Dejevsky - Paris*

As Brussels grapples with the budgetary fall-out of mad-cow disease, Europe's cereals farmers, who absorb almost half the EU's £30bn annual farm budget, have been told they face sweeping cutbacks. The warning came when EU agriculture ministers met yesterday to consider proposals to scale down the entire European beef industry in the wake of the BSE crisis. Plans include wholesale slaughter of calves to try to avert the rise of a new beef mountain. As Europe enters the peak autumn production period, stockpiles of unwanted beef are heading for the 600,000-tonne mark and could grow to 1 million tonnes by mid-1997. Demand for beef in France and Germany, is around 30 per cent below what it was before the crisis broke. *Katherine Butler – Brussels*

The former French prime minister and disappointed presidential candidate of one year ago, Edouard Balladur, reassembled members of his centre-right electoral team at his chalet in the alpine resort of Chamonix yesterday to discuss the formation of a new political grouping, the Association for Reform. The gathering flew in the face of attempts by President Jacques Chirac and his Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, to smooth over differences between the two camps in the run-up to the 1998 parliamentary elections. *Mary Dejevsky – Paris*

Zimbabwe said it will allow gay and lesbian organisations to take part in an international book fair, reversing last year's ban, which sparked world-wide condemnation. President Robert Mugabe branded homosexuals as "worse than dogs and pigs" and said they were entitled to no rights of any kind. *Reuter – Harare*

A swarm of twenty-five thousand bees that followed their queen to an airport near the Norwegian town of Trondheim took over a transformer used for an aircraft parking and service area. "No one dared go near the swarm. There were bees everywhere," an airline employee, Baard Oeyen, said. The Braathens SAFE airline surrendered to the bees, abandoning several aircraft. After about three hours, a beekeeper arrived to liberate the area. *AP – Oslo*

China's battle against corruption is making little progress but its "Strike Hard" crime crackdown has brought more than 162,000 arrests, including slave-traders and drug dealers, state media said. "The momentum of the phenomenon of spreading of rampant corruption has not been contained," one of China's best-selling magazines said in an edition intended only for officials. *Reuter - Peking*

Vodka can no longer be sold near schools, child-care centres, health clinics or churches in the capital, it was decreed by the Mayor of Moscow. Areas around underground stations, railway stations, airports and military facilities also will be off-limits for sales *AP – Moscow*

Dissident's release stirs hope for change in Brunei

STEPHEN VINES

Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei, the richest man in the world, has completed his lavish 50th birthday celebrations by resuming his game of cat-and-mouse with Zaini Ahmad, 61, one of Brunei's best-known dissidents who was released from jail at the end of last week.

Western diplomats in Brunei see the release as a significant crack in the edifice of the absolute monarchy which rules this oil-rich enclave on Borneo. However, it was not accompanied by any other indication of relaxation in the sultan's family's total domination of Brunei's economic and political life.

Mr Zaini's release serves as a timely reminder that Brunei is more than home to the man who lives in the world's largest palace, owns the Dorchester Hotel and a private fleet of Rolls Royce cars. It is also home to 300,000 people, most of whom enjoy a high standard of living, albeit without basic civil rights.

In 1962 Mr Zaini's Parti Rakyat Brunei swept to victory in the nation's first and only democratic elections. The present Sultan's father, Sultan Sir Omar Ali Saifuddin III, refused to accept the result, insisting that no election could be allowed to undermine the power of the monarchy. The British, then running Brunei as a protectorate, had forced the Sultan into holding the election and were as surprised as he was at the victory of the party. When it became clear that the victors were to be denied power, the party's supporters staged a revolt which was swiftly and brutally put down by British forces, mainly Gurkha troops.

Mr Zaini was among 2,000 or so people arrested. After serving 11 years in jail he escaped to Malaysia, only to be re-arrested on his return to Brunei.

After the insurrection, the Sultan was effectively deposed by his son, with British encouragement. It seems that Britain regarded the old Sultan as too stubborn, particularly in his refusal to join the then new Federation of Malaysia.

With an exquisite inability to judge Asian politics, the Foreign Office believed the Sultan's son would be more compliant. At first it looked as though they were right. But, as he grew into the job, he showed even greater determination than his father to be rid of British domination.

The formal British protectorate arrangement ended in 1984, but a number of British "advisers" remained in key government positions. British influence quickly waned as the former Crown Agents were stripped of the right to manage the Sultanate's funds.

There are no overt signs of political dissent in Brunei. A mild opposition party gave up the struggle in 1988. Mr Zaini has renounced opposition to the monarchy and expressed "sincere regret" for his role in the rebellion. The regime, however, has been showing signs of developing an ideology which justifies its rule. Official propaganda stresses nationalism and Islam in conjunction with appeals for loyalty to the monarchy.

A national forum has recently been initiated to provide local leaders with a means of participating in the formulation of policy, but the doors of the legislature remain firmly shut. Although public participation in government is slight, Brunei allows local groups to voice their views, including the right to criticise government policy. It is done within well-understood limits but maintains some form of contact between the ruler and his subjects.

A hidden agenda in the world of the acronym

Richard Lloyd Parry on 'ARF' – meeting in China's shadow

Jakarta – International diplomacy has always been a minefield of baffling acronyms and, as the Cold War has given way to the new world order, so bureaucrats and heads of state have met the challenge with a new set of opaque abbreviations. In the old days, global security revolved on a transatlantic axis – the world of Nato and Comintern and the terrifying notion of MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction).

With the fall of the Soviet Union, the focus of global concern has moved east, to the realm of the CIS, Asean (Association of South-East Asian Nations), and Apec (Asia-Pacific Economic Co-Operation). This week, hold your breath for yet another international acronym – ARF, the Asean Regional Forum.

The ARF, which convenes in Jakarta this morning, first met three years ago, but neither of its previous meetings has addressed such a wide range of tensions and preoccupations as those under consideration today. Ministers from 18 countries, plus the European Union, will be officially represented at today's meetings. The geographical, political and economic disparities between the delegates – from Russia and the United States to Brunei and Laos – are enormous. At the formal ministerial meeting, plus the lower-level bilaterals, there will be discussion of virtually every issue of security in the world today.

While the Europeans are briefing their Asian counterparts on events in Bosnia, Japan, the US and South Korea will be in an anxious huddle about the future of North Korea. Malaysia and Canada will co-chair an inter-sessional meeting on peace-keeping operations. The Singaporeans and Americans will put forward proposals on international search-and-rescue operations. Russia will be sharing its thoughts on the Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

And at the back of everyone's minds, casting a shadow over almost every discussion, will be the future of the region's pivotal military power: China.

Perhaps mercifully, the ARF has no formal agenda – in common with Apec and Asean, it adopts a free-and-easy approach to its deliberations, with anyone, in theory, free to bring up any subject they choose. Certain of the participants, particularly Singapore and Malaysia, take pride in painting this as a peculiarly "Asian attitude" in contrast with the rigid and confrontational style supposedly favoured by the West. But everyone knows that certain key subjects are going to crop up – and the group is likely to divide along polarised East-West lines.

The most obvious example is Burma. The Rangoon junta will not be taking part in ARF, but it was welcomed on Saturday as an observer member of Asean which held its annual meeting over the weekend. The non-Asian delegates in Jakarta, which include Australia, New Zealand and Canada, as well as the Americans and Europeans, have taken umbrage at this, particularly since last month when Leo Nichols, an honorary consul for several Scandinavian countries, died in custody in Rangoon. Their anger was not soothed yesterday by an explanation given by the Burmese Foreign Minister, Ohn Gyaw. Mr Nichols, he explained, had died after "eating something which was not compatible with his health".

Several other of ARF's Asian members have disturbing human rights records – notably China and the host, Indonesia, which this month marked the 20th anniversary of its savage annexation of East Timor. Despite encouragement from the Burmese democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, the Europeans seem to be watering down their calls for an economic boycott of Burma. But there are already mutterings that the they are missing the point, and that the EU in ARF is an acronym too far.

■ Jakarta (AP) – Ohn Gyaw confirmed that his military government keeps records on foreign journalists and denies them visas if their reports reflect badly on the regime. "If there is no goodwill, why should the government let them come and write bad things?" he said.

Flying high: The Malaysian flag flies by the Kuala Lumpur tower which opens today. The tower, at 431m (1,400ft), is the third tallest building in the world Photograph: AP

Hundreds killed in Sri Lanka battle

Colombo (Reuter) — Tamil Tiger rebels claimed yesterday to have killed more than 1,200 Sri Lankan troops in the battle for a north-eastern army camp and said they had surrounded reinforcements sent to rescue the besieged garrison.

A statement from the Tigers said 241 rebels, including 68 women, had also died in the fight for the Mullaitivu army camp, regarded as the bloodiest battle in years.

An army official said the claim that government troops were surrounded was exaggerated. He estimated casualties at 300 killed and 200 wounded, and said more than 300 rebels had been killed.

Western diplomats said the latest upsurge of violence probably stemmed from the army's capture in April of the northern town of Jaffna, headquarters of the Tamil Tigers. The fighting has dashed government hopes that peace was at hand after the fall of Jaffna.

The main supply route to Jaffna is by sea, and western diplomats say that if Mullaitivu falls to the rebels, it could hit a vital link to Jaffna.

Reinforcements have been battling to reach the base since it was stormed by about 3,000 separatist guerrillas last week. The rebels sank a naval vessel with some 40 men aboard on Friday, and downed an air force helicopter on Saturday.

The latest attacks come a week before the 13th anniversary of the anti-Tamil riots that sparked the ethnic conflict in which the government says more than 50,000 people have died. State-run radio said the fighting had forced President Chandrika Kumaratunga to cut short a private visit to London.

The Tigers said their leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, was personally supervising the assault on Mullaitivu, which it said was fully under rebel control. The army has denied this claim.

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£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	5.37**	4.29
The London Account			
£100,000 or more	Annually	4.60	3.68
£25,000-£99,999	Annually	4.45	3.56
£10,000-£24,999	Annually	4.25	3.40
£2,500-£9,999	Annually	4.00	3.20
£100,000 or more	Monthly	4.51**	3.60
£25,000-£99,999	Monthly	4.36**	3.49
£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	4.17**	3.33
£5,000-£9,999	Monthly	3.93**	3.14
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£10,000-£24,999	Annually	2.00	1.60
£1,000-£9,999	Annually	1.00	0.80
£25,000 or more	Monthly	2.47**	1.98
£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	1.98**	1.59
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£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	5.75**	4.60
£5,000-£9,999	Monthly	5.37**	4.29
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£25,000-£99,999	Annually	5.66	4.53
£10,000-£24,999	Annually	5.21	4.17
£100,000 or more	Monthly	5.67**	4.49
£25,000-£99,999	Monthly	5.52**	4.41
£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	5.09**	4.07
C&G Golden Jubilee Account			
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£10,000-£24,999	Annually	4.50	3.60
£25,000 or more	Monthly	4.89**	3.91
£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	4.41**	3.53
C&G Investment Account			
£100,000 or more	Annually	4.60	3.68
£25,000-£99,999	Annually	4.45	3.56
£10,000-£24,999	Annually	4.25	3.40
£5,000-£9,999	Annually	4.00	3.20
£100,000 or more	Monthly	4.51**	3.60
£25,000-£99,999	Monthly	4.36**	3.49
£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	4.17**	3.33
£5,000-£9,999	Monthly	3.93**	3.14
London Deposit Account			
£25,000 or more	Annually	4.25	3.56
£10,000-£24,999	Annually	4.25	3.40
£5,000-£9,999	Annually	4.00	3.20
£25,000 or more	Monthly	4.36**	3.49
£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	4.17**	3.33
£5,000-£9,999	Monthly	3.93**	3.14
C&G Investment Account			
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EXCLUSIVE: Burundi's PM backtracks on pledge to let African peace force end the carnage

‘ Intervention will not stop the massacres but make it worse ’

DAVID ORR
Bujumbura

International intervention in Burundi, seen by many observers as the last chance to prevent the country from sliding further into anarchy, will be opposed by the Prime Minister.

Antoine Nduwayo told the *Independent* in an exclusive interview yesterday that he now resolutely opposes plans for a multinational peace-keeping force in Burundi.

"Intervention from outside is not desirable," Mr Nduwayo said, before an emergency session of his cabinet in the capital, Bujumbura. "An intervention force could not prevent more massacres. In fact it could ... make the situation here much worse."

The Prime Minister's remarks mark a dramatic reversal. Only a month ago he agreed to an African peace-keeping force at a regional summit in Tanzania.

Mr Nduwayo said a peace-keeping force would not have prevented the massacre at the weekend of more than 300 members of the minority Tutsi community in central Burundi. His government would now provide greater security for encampments of displaced Tutsis, such as the one attacked at Bugendena on Saturday.

Today the Prime Minister, himself a Tutsi, will attend the mass burial of the massacre victims in the remote hills of central Burundi. Many believe the last hope of peace for the tiny African nation will disappear into the grave alongside the blood-soaked bodies.

The massacre at Bugendena is being blamed on extremists among the majority Hutu group. There are fears that the Tutsi-dominated army will exact a terrible revenge for the killings and that Burundi will descend into an irreversible cycle of violence similar to the one in neighbouring Rwanda two years ago.

Under pressure from the international community, Mr Nduwayo was persuaded to join President Sylvestre Ntibantunganga, a Hutu, in agreeing that only outside assistance could save Burundi. Signing the intervention accord was seen as a significant breakthrough in bringing peace to Burundi. Under its terms, a force of Ugandan, Tanzanian and Ethiopian peace-keepers would have moved into Burundi as soon as deployment details were agreed by Burundi's government, a fragile coalition of Hutu and Tutsi parties.

There have been signs that the Prime Minister's resolve was beginning to falter in face of mounting pressure from the army and from the Tutsi community. On the streets of Bujumbura during the past week, thousands of Tutsi youths have been protesting against intervention. They fear it will neutralise the army and open the way for genocide by Hutu extremists. Yesterday hordes of youths brandishing sticks ran through the capital, chanting slogans against intervention.

The massacre at Bugendena seems to have swept away any lingering doubts in the Prime Minister's mind about foreign assistance. Without his support the peace plan cannot succeed. Unless the other members of the National Security Council persuade Mr Nduwayo to change his mind, the intervention accord appears to be in tatters and Burundi is on its own.

"The events at Bugendena have given rise to heightened emotions in Bujumbura and elsewhere," said Mr Nduwayo, who is under pressure from Tutsi hardliners to resign. "These could be exploited by the extremists. The militias will only become more active if there is an intervention force."

As he spoke, more than 7,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees were fleeing northwards towards Rwanda, having been evicted from their camp in northern Burundi by the authorities. By yesterday afternoon, about 5,500 refugees had crossed over the border into Rwanda and an unknown number was said to have taken to the hills.

About 85,000 Rwandan Hutus have been living in Burundi since the war which ended the Rwandan genocide in 1994. They are seen as a source of instability by Burundi's government. It says it will now close all four camps in the north of the country. Rwandan Hutus from refugee camps in neighbouring Zaire have been accused of organising the killings at Bugendena.

The expulsion of the Hutu refugees and the massacre of Tutsis at Bugendena mark a new and frightening degree of polarisation between Burundi's two communities. With proposals for a peace-keeping force close to collapse, there is little to prevent an escalation of the conflict in which hundreds of civilians are dying each month.

Left to rot: Flies settle on the arm of a victim of Bugendena. The body had been removed from the camp where the massacre took place Photograph: AP

Youth rampage in a city gripped by terror

Bujumbura's angry students insist peace-keepers will fuel genocide

Every morning hundreds, sometimes thousands, of Tutsi youths run through the streets of Burundi's capital, Bujumbura, chanting slogans. Dressed in running shorts and tracksuits, they pound through the city, waving sticks and clubs.

"We're going to fight to the death and we're going to win," one group sang yesterday. "Let us fight. They provoked us."

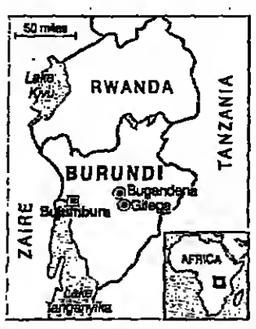
The identity of "them" is not in doubt amongst those watching the demonstrators, members of the minority Tutsi community. "They" are the Hutu extremists who massacre Tutsis in the lush and fertile hills of this central African nation. "They" are the Hutu killers who slaughtered more than 300 inhabitants of a remote, mainly Tutsi settlement at Bugendena in central Burundi this weekend. "They" are the people the protesters believe will butcher every Tutsi, given half a chance.

About 85 per cent of Burundi's 6 million people are Hutu but the Tutsi minority has traditionally held power and dominated the army. In Rwanda, where the ethnic mix is similar, Hutus slaughtered half a million Tutsis in 1994; the Tutsis struck back, sending hundreds of thousands of Hutus into exile, many to Burundi.

Burundi already has its own civil war. More than 150,000 have been killed in ethnic violence since the first democratically elected Hutu president was assassinated in 1993. But now, as the violence rapidly escalates, there are fears that Burundi, like Rwanda, will witness genocide. Bujumbura is now a Tutsi town, having been "cleansed" of almost all its Hutu inhabitants by the Tutsi-dominated army last year. Amid much bloodshed, the Hutus were driven into the hills and into camps, such as the squalid Johnson Centre, on the outskirts of the city.

At least two Rwandan Hutu refugees died of suffocation yesterday after Burundi's army crammed them in container trucks and forced them back into their homeland, a UN official said. The deportations followed the Hutu massacre of Tutsis in central Burundi.

The youths in Bujumbura are protesting against the proposed intervention of African peace-keeping troops whose deployment in Burundi was agreed at a regional summit in Tanzania last month. The initiative, which the West and the Organisation of African Unity support, is seen by many as Burundi's only hope for peace.



But Tutsi youths see things differently. "Extremist Hutu elements could finish their genocidal mission under the cover of a regional force," says Oscar Nyanawi, a university student leader. "Foreign intervention threatens Burundi's sovereignty. If the army hasn't got the manpower, it should call up all young people."

Equally opposed to foreign intervention are Hutu extremist groups, such as the CNDD and its rebel militia the FDD, which is being held responsible for the killings at Bugendena.

Hutu rebels, members of the former Rwandan army, overthrown by Tutsi insurgents in 1994, are spoiling for a showdown to settle the score. They have been infiltrating Rwanda and Burundi from the refugee camps in Zaire where they are based. Every month hundreds of Burundians are killed in ethnic fighting.

Some are murdered by Hutu extremists similar to those who descended on Bugendena. Others are killed by the largely Tutsi army whose "cleansing operations" against Hutu communities are often violent.

The students taking part in the demonstrations say their movement is apolitical. They say they only carry batons *"pour s'encouriger"*, to give themselves encouragement.

There are many, however, who believe the youths are organised by Tutsi extremists. Principal among these hard-liners is a former president, Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, who has been calling for strikes and civil disobedience to resist foreign intervention. The UN has repeatedly talked about bringing an international peace-keeping force to stop the bloodshed in Burundi.

But this year it became clear the West had lost its appetite for intervening in Africa. UN operations in Somali and Rwanda ended in failure and few world leaders want to ensnare themselves in Burundi's politics.

David Orr

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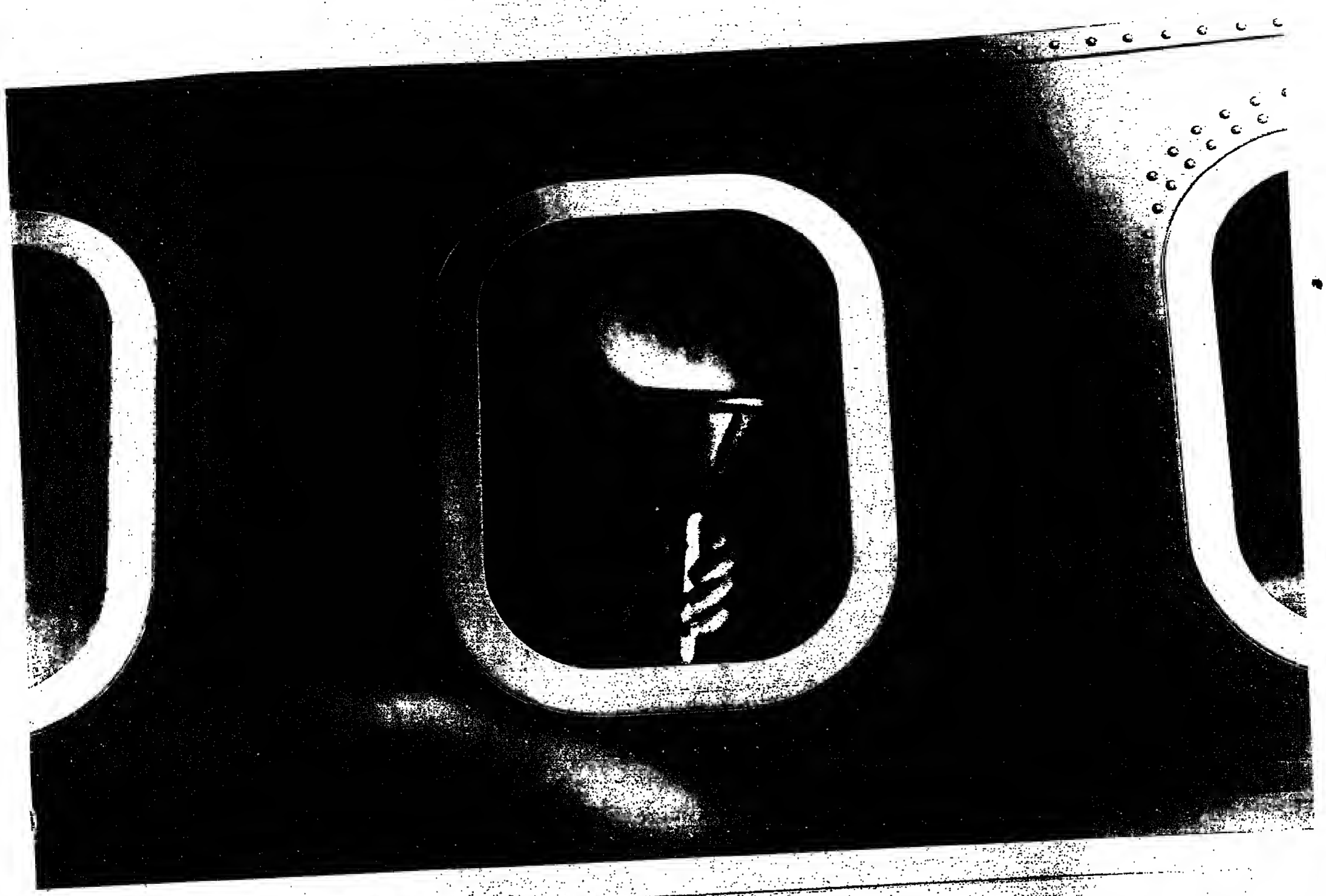

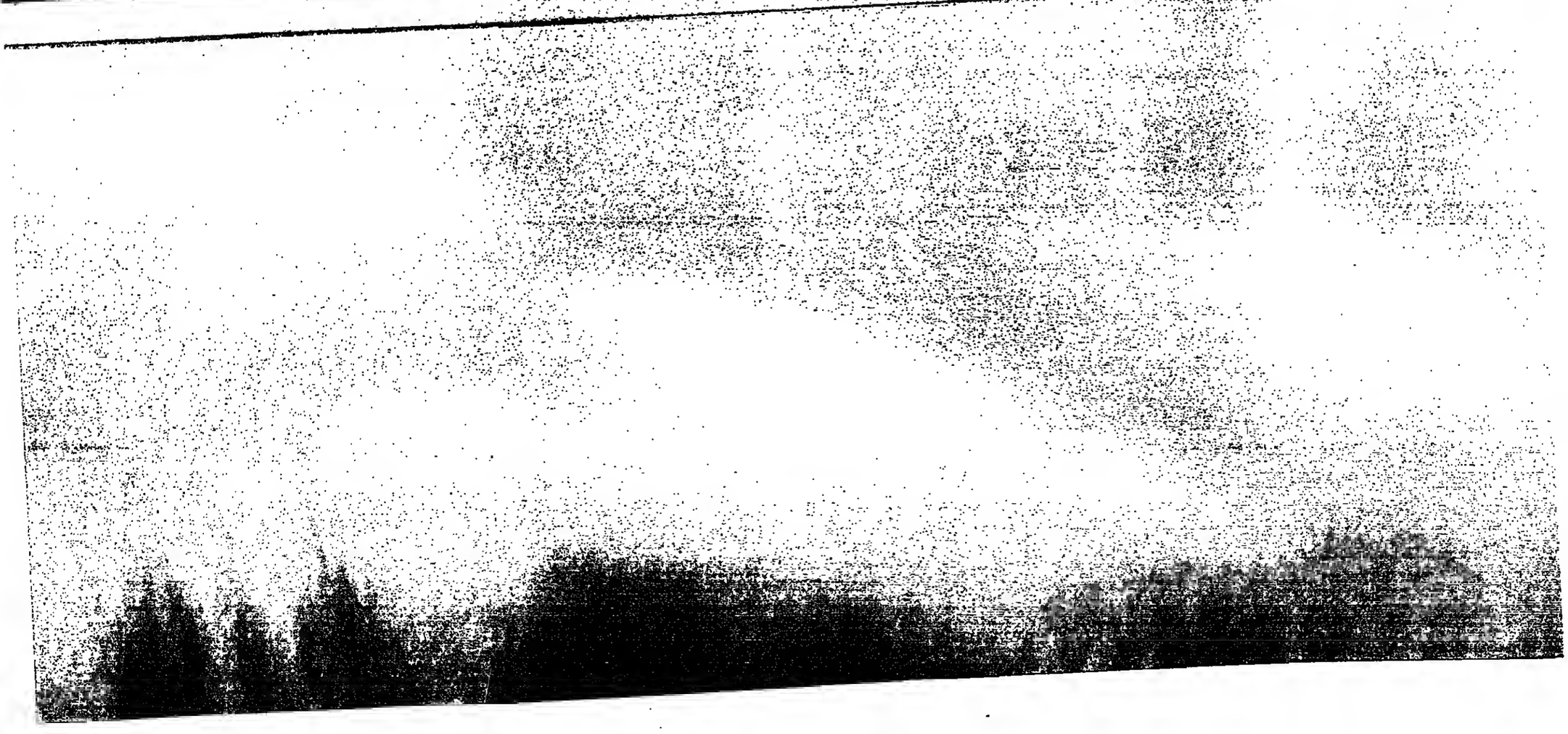

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In local democracy, one size does not fit all

As they moved around the towns and counties of England the Local Government Commission found *something startling*. It was so unwelcome it got Sir John Banham, the Commission chairman, sacked. It led Labour to decry the Commission and all its works. And what was that great, that controversial discovery? The Commission found, on the basis of an exhaustive set of polls, you could not impose some central pattern – such as "unitary" councils – because (wait for it) places are different. Some are loved, a few are loathed and some leave their inhabitants pretty indifferent. It is a message we need to have in the forefront of our minds in thinking about any plan for the future of our moribund local democracy – whether that plan comes from the district councils or from Tony Blair. It is especially relevant to an idea as attractive as directly elected executive mayors. Let us say it plain and say it loud: a single plan to suit all circumstances just won't work. Both government and opposition often seem locked in a mindset that seems to owe something to the Norman conquerors of the 11th century, and to Sidney and Beatrice Webb's passion for uniformity and, latterly, that peculiar Thatcherite intolerance of political and spending diversity. It's one that forbids experiments and untidiness. It dislikes hybridity. Yet variations around the theme, some successful, some failures, are precisely what we need. They are very British.

Yet local differences have diminished. People's jobs, their mobility, their expectations of a standard education for their children and care for their elderly relatives has led to more uniformity. But the places of England (Scotland and Wales answer to their own logics) remain different enough. No single template can provide effective services; no one model for town hall organisation can possibly fit the variety of local circumstances. The correct response to anyone, who comes up with one formula for all – including elected mayors – is this. Will it fit both Northampton (where attachment to place is weak) and Rugby (where it is strong)? What might just about work in Birmingham, given its proud tradition of municipal activism, would not work in, say, Solihull, where it sometimes seems local identity is defined as not-Brum.

What is needed therefore is what the centre is so reluctant to offer – space for towns and cities to come forward with their own suggestions. A wise council, wanting change, might even hold a referendum. (Councils already have extensive powers to conduct such tests of public opinion.) An expert body such as the Local Government or Audit Commissions could cast an eye over arrangements for elections and then … let a thousand mayors bloom.

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Provided mayors are what the people of X think X needs.

Mayors are, of course, no panacea. Reorganising the workings of city hall does not solve any of the wider problems of central-local relations or the need to establish local finances on a more even keel. It is idle to look across the Atlantic or the Channel and extract one element from those very different political cultures. Starry-eyed admirers of New York's dynamic Mayor Giuliani should remember the granddaddy of urban political manipulators, Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago – municipal projects come at a price. Most mayoral systems will need to include within them some arrangement for a (non-executive) council to monitor and where necessary censure the mayor.

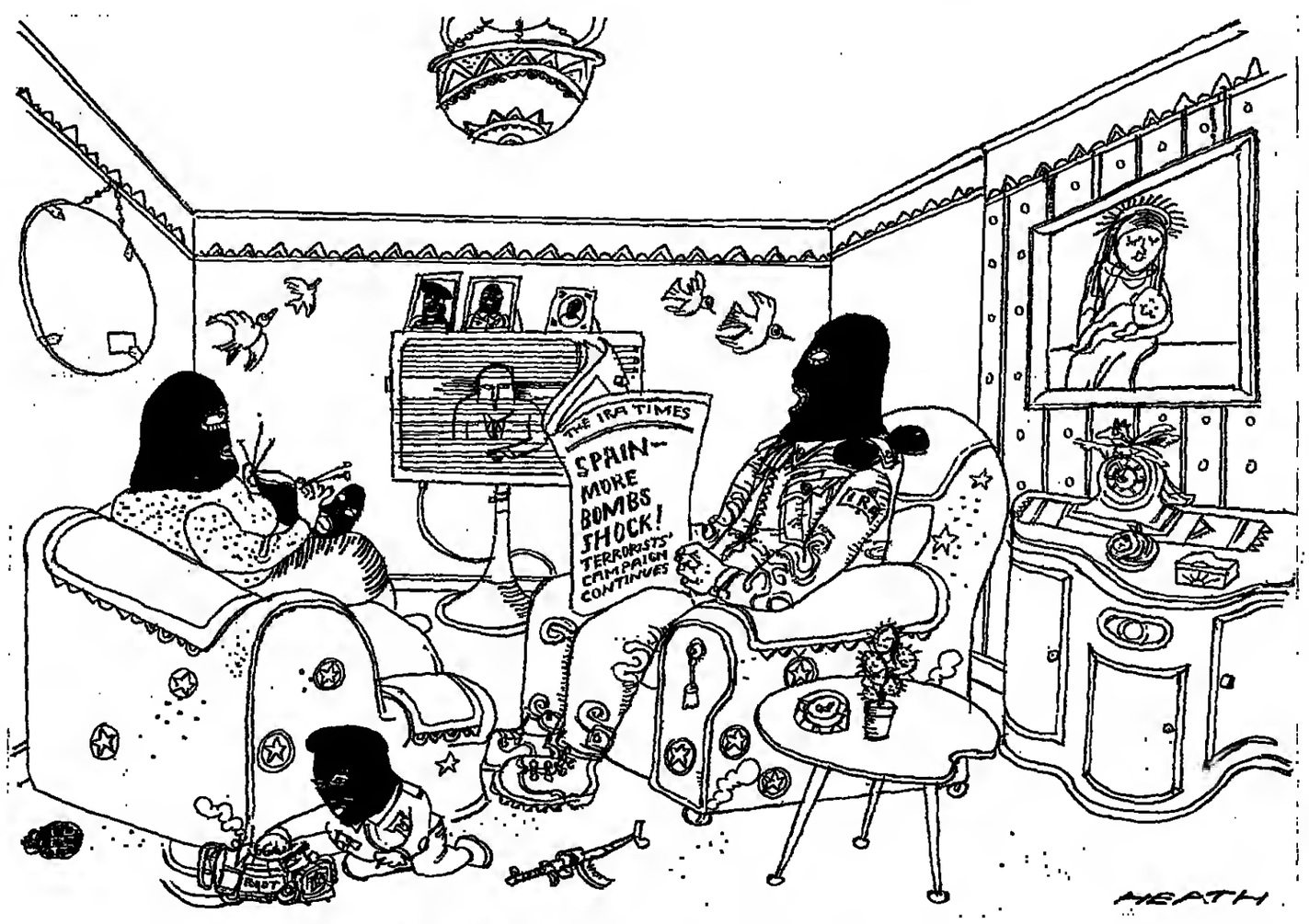
What a central local figure or mayor offers is a golden opportunity for inserting local government into the modern world. In that world the media increasingly define significance. What attracts the media and what interests the public is personality. And personality is what, proverbially, local government lacks. Love or loathe him, Ken Livingstone made London government live – and it was not just a question of his milking the millions of rate revenue flowing into the Greater London Council for his anti-abolition campaign. Mr Livingstone did not save the GLC but his performance must rank as a model of what could be. And who knows what might have happened to the administration of Lambeth had an aspiring young Conservative seen his future lie in becoming the mayor of that problem-wracked but potential-filled borough?

Elected mayors would force the political parties to redefine what a political career looks like. Time and again we have seen that dreary move from Mr Big City into backbench obscurity. They move partly because of money, partly because fame is defined nationally. The money question is on the way to solution: the present government (to its credit) has relaxed controls and councils can now, subject to audit inspection, pay councillors what they choose. The fame question is the most teasing, but answering it tells us why elected mayors is an idea whose time has surely come. One of the most striking sections of that odd glance at the future produced by Treasury civil servants and published last week amid such controversy was its tentative suggestion that the governance of Britain could head down a different road – one involving the dispersal and sharing of political and administrative power, devolving decision making and spending. Down that road lies the revival of local executive government. Elected mayors are no precondition of such a (welcome development. But they are a sign and symbol of what local authorities could look like in a new age. To go any further and start specifying the form and nature of mayoralty would be to defeat the purpose of the exercise. Mayors can only ever possess authority if the power grows out of a local political context and reflects its idiosyncrasies. What the centre needs to do is get out of the way.

Students on trial

In households up and down the land young people are beginning the nail-biting season. Term has ended and cohorts of 16- and 18-year-olds wait for their exam results. It seems they have a friend in a high educational place. Secretary of State Gillian Shephard yesterday took their part against the fogeys. She had the political temerity to say the candidates deserve some credit for having, most of them, worked their socks off. Hear, hear. The agenda for reform in schools and colleges is wide but that does not excuse what we have so often heard from Tory antediluvians: if the results are good, exams are deemed to be easier. That won't do, says Mrs Shephard. Credit where credit is due. It belongs fairly with those young people now entering their time of trial.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •



'Well, at least we know where to go for our holidays'

Dealing with the ugly truth of abortion

Sir: I'm a 32-year-old feminist anti-abortionist. There are many, many women like me, but we are mostly cowards. We don't speak out at dinner parties, or in the office, or at the toddler group, because who can say who we may be hurting? Most of my age group have been close to an abortion, in one way or another. Many of us are finding current grim revelations about the "partial birth" method of abortion painful (comment, 18 July).

There are times when otherwise civilised societies suffer from moral convulsions, when decent people fall prey to a shared moral blindness. In my lifetime, roughly the 30 years since David Steel's Abortion Act, an almost complete reversal of medical ethics has turned child killing into a minor procedure, and euphemisms like "termination" and "uterine contents" have protected us from the knowledge of what we are doing. We have declared that the unborn are not human, and the assertion has comforted us.

But we know more now. Every woman who has gazed at the scan photograph of her unborn child knows more than her mother did. Should we be surprised that recent medical research "strongly suggests" that the foetus feels the pain of having his or her brains sucked out, of being vacuumed into small pieces? We've left it to doctors and nurses to deal with knowledge like that.

It is unjust to leave women and health professionals to deal with the ugly truth of abortion. We condoned and financed 184,000 such private tragedies last year when we paid our taxes. It is painful to read about foetal suffering, but we need to make a responsible, not a knee-jerk decision about the future. If every child must be a wanted child, what do we do with the unwanted? If we conclude that we must kill them, can medicine at least help us to do it humanely?

CRESSIDA EASTWELL
Bewdley, Worcestershire

Sir: To say women "choose" to have abortions for "social reasons" is to put sweet words to a much more bitter reality. Women are forced to have abortions for economic reasons. They can't afford the loss of essential earnings that having a child entails.

A viable family unit presently needs two adult incomes to be solvent; bringing up children requires more time than two parents going out to work full-time have available. To add to an already impossible situation, a good many male partners take themselves, and the major part of their incomes, away to a less stressful environment.

There will have to be many changes in society before women will be free to "choose" to have children once again. The most important, and one that hasn't been talked about since Eleanor Rathbone's pre-war fight for mothers and family allowances, is that women must be fully compensated for the enormous loss of earnings and hard emotional and physical work that rearing children entails.

Eleanor Rathbone was heeded, and a rudimentary child benefit was introduced, because society, then as now, was worried by a catastrophic fall in the birth rate. The post-war baby boom pushed the whole idea of "wages for mothers" off the political agenda, and since the 1960s Thomas Malthus's anti-human, nasty right wing ideas about population growth have prevailed, to such an extent that, at the end of the 20th century, we are beginning to see a decline in population, and the horrific prospect of the "greying" of Britain.

Society needs babies, lots of them every year, filling up the place with beauty, novelty and hope. But society must pay for them, not individual women.

EILEEN LAVIN
London NW2

Sir: Bryan Appleyard's characterisation of the partial birth abortion procedure is one of the nastier pieces of misinformation I've recently come across. Contrary to his assertion that the procedure is "routinely used in America", the practice is actually so rare that only a handful are performed annually, and although the foetus's skull is indeed collapsed to allow its passage through the birth canal, the baby is first painlessly euthanised.

More crucial, however, and oddly absent from Mr Appleyard's rigorously moral tirade, is the fact that this late term procedure is only used in cases where the foetus is so severely handicapped – lacking a brain, for example – that it has no possibility of life. The agonising decision whether or not to carry such a tragically damaged foetus to term must belong to its parents and no one else: certainly not to the government.

Indeed, when the issue of partial birth abortion was brandished by conservative Republicans in Congress last year, it was a committed anti-abortionist mother who came forward to speak on behalf of the procedure, describe its humanity and publicly thank her doctors for their sensitivity to the loss of her much wanted child. Her account should be heard by each and every MP eager to score easy political points by condemning what Appleyard blithely terms "horrific… butcher[y]".

JEAN HANFF KORELITZ
Hopewell, New Jersey, USA

Do we live in a meritocracy?

Sir: Yvette Cooper (report, 18 July) seeks to undermine my argument by pointing to the privileged backgrounds of Cabinet Ministers and Law Lords, yet I state explicitly that "my focus is on the 99 per cent of jobs below the élite stratum rather than on the one per cent which constitute it."

She claims that the test results of children at 11 are, "as every parent knows", strongly influenced by parental encouragement and stimulation. But in the book I show that these test scores are by far the strongest predictor of job status later in life, even when we control for parental influences. I also show that, while parental encouragement can raise a child's motivation, it has little effect on ability test scores.

She dismisses my findings as "nonsense" because she thinks the middle-classes can still pass on their privileges to their children. Why, then, do 40 per cent of children born to middle class parents slide out of the middle class? The answer has more to do with ability and motivation than anything else.

Finally, she would have your readers believe that I argue that "the class system has collapsed" and that "the playing field is level". In fact, my book states quite clearly: "I do not claim that Britain is a perfect meritocracy. The various advantages and disadvantages associated with different social class origins do play some part in influencing people's occupational chances. The point is, however, that Britain is much more meritocratic than is generally believed."

Professor PETER SAUNDERS
University of Sussex
Brighton

Sir: To describe the work of Professor Peter Saunders as deserving "serious attention" or "not quickly dismissed" or even "sophisticated" is somewhat beyond the pale.

The reality is that for a long time the IEA (which publishes his work) has placed itself beyond the fringes of serious debate in this country, peddling a minimal state and self-help agenda which makes Newt Gingrich look moderate.

For evidence that Professor Saunders and the IEA are wrong, we simply have to look around us. Since 1979 the poorest 10 per cent of the population have become 18 per cent worse off whilst the richest 10 per cent have become 58 per cent better off, the number of people on non-means-tested benefit has doubled and life expectancy is still considerably worsened by class. Meritocracy? I think not.

IAN CORFIELD
Research Director
Fabian Society
London SW1

Why we need Robin Cook

Sir: It is for others to judge the merits of Steve Crawshaw's opinion of me ("Do we need Robin Cook?", 22 July), but I do need to put right some of his alleged facts.

First, I am accused of confusing Nigeria with Niger. There was no such confusion. The decision on extending sanctions against Nigeria was before ECOFIN in the week of that broadcast, and I was right both in fact and in principle in calling on the Government to support the continuance of sanctions.

Second, I am accused of not understanding the importance of qualified majority voting (QMV) for Europe. This is hard to reconcile with Labour's published policy documents which set out at great length our detailed position on the case for widening the use of QMV in Europe. I freely admit, though, that I have repeatedly stressed that we will only restore public support for the European project if we lift the European debate above the details of institutional reform and focus it on issues of concern to the public, such as jobs, the environment, and peace.

Third, I am accused of opposing tough action against those responsible for prosecuting the war in Bosnia. Steve Crawshaw has obviously never listened to any of my many speeches on Bosnia, in which I repeatedly urged that the military defence of the safe havens should be made a reality, and in which I consistently demanded that those responsible for atrocities should be brought before the War Crimes Tribunal.

Fourth, it is alleged that "friends of Mr Cook" believe that concerns over the future of the rule of law in Hong Kong are "bourgeois crap". This is pure invention. Neither I nor any friend of mine believes any such thing. My own concerns about the future of legal and democratic rights in Hong Kong were set out recently and at length in the *Independent*.

Finally, I am set as a test of my principles whether I will support sanctions against Burma. It is a question that we have already answered unequivocally. Labour has already demanded that the Government votes in the European Union for sanctions against the brutal military regime in power in Burma, and would ourselves vote for sanctions if we represented Britain.

Mr Crawshaw's unprovoked assault and battery is all the more depressing as I am only too conscious that there is room for legitimate question about the nature of debate on foreign policy in Britain, and the responsibility for its faults of those of us who conduct it. For instance, try as I might, it is difficult to avoid the agenda being set by responses to crises rather than analysis of strategic trends. I personally am particularly concerned at the neglect of global environmental issues which ought to play a much larger role in international relations.

ROBIN COOK MP
(Livingston, Lab)
House of Commons
London SW1

The writer is Labour spokesman for foreign affairs

Labour's support for the arts

Sir: I have no idea whose opinions Andrew Marr has been canvassing, when he draws the conclusion ("Art lessons for New Labour", 17 July) that "almost everyone involved in the arts has come away depressed at the lack of interest" shown by the Opposition. After 17 years in which the cultural and educational foundations of Britain have been handed over piecemeal to the marketplace, the prospect of a change of government is one of the few aspects of the next 12 months that is not depressing me.

New Labour has been meticulous and exhaustive in testing its ideas among my colleagues in the artistic world, and has shown a healthy awareness that audiences and communities, supported by a humane and undivisive education system, are the lodestar that should guide any cultural policy. This is scarcely surprising. It was the Labour Party that planned the Festival of Britain, founded the Open University, brought the talents of Jennie Lee and Lord Goodman into the leadership of arts provision and, despite the frequent tiffs between Harold Wilson and the media, presided over a golden age of British broadcasting in the Sixties and mid-Seventies.

It was a sympathetic Labour administration that allowed the Sadler's Wells Opera to grow into English National Opera and hundreds of thousands of operagoers each year have reason to be thankful to a party that seems to believe that the greatest artistic creations are for everyone, regardless of their means or origins.

DENNIS MARKS
General Director
English National Opera
London WC2

Sir: It should be applauded that the Labour Party is the only political party ever to publish a policy statement on architecture and urban design, in 1992.

Since then Labour has consulted widely on its policy in a series of seminars, and is currently holding detailed meetings with architects, planners and others to discuss the guidelines which will help all departments of an incoming Labour government become good clients, commissioning well-designed public buildings and spaces and getting value for money by backing the great design talent in this country.

Sir RICHARD ROGERS
London W6

Sir: Certainly William Morris "wanted to integrate the city with the country", as you state in "Art lessons for New Labour", but his backwards-looking dream of a romantic medievalism coupled with the less useful part of the Arts and Crafts movement only gave us suburbia, those long miles of bypass, and Tudorbethan ribbon developments throughout the 1920s and 1930s.

PATRICK HODGKINSON
Bath, Somerset

The gringo Nova

Sir: With respect to the discussions about the naming of the Nova car (report, 13 July; letters 16 and 20 July), they have the right name but the wrong car. The subject of the Urban Legend in question is the Chevrolet Nova. It was produced in the USA, and the target of the unfortunate Spanish marketing campaign was Mexico.

SIMON REAP
Market Bosworth, Leicestershire

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

essay

From total war to local war: it's a revolution

For centuries we prepared to wage all-out conflict. The rule was, don't interfere in civil wars. But now we do little else. Christopher Bellamy examines the new military world order

The breakdown of the ceasefire in Ireland. The slow but, so far, encouraging progress of peace in Bosnia. The spectre of another Rwanda-type disaster in Burundi, and of the international community trying to intervene to stop it. Three apparently unrelated events, yet each forms part of an astonishingly complex revolution. It is the most dramatic revolution in our thinking about war and peace for at least 200 years, and in some ways for 350 years.

After the Cold War confrontation, with its potential for a war more "absolute" in its destructiveness than any that had preceded it, we have returned to a situation that in some ways resembles the later colonial period, and in others the 18th century. However, the growing role of the media in shaping international public opinion and the presence of an international authority to oversee the rule of law between states – the United Nations – has made a difference.

The clear distinction between "war" and "peace" – a product of nearly 200 years in which wars got bigger and involved more and more of society – has been blurred again, as we contemplate continuous engagement in other peoples' wars.

In the early 19th century, Karl von Clausewitz, the military strategist, wrote that his era was seeing the end of "cabinet wars", 18th-century wars fought by small, professional, mercenary armies for limited objectives. "War was handed back to the [mass of the] people from whom it had been taken away, in part, by the use of select, standing armies."

Now it has been taken away again, as we fight highly political wars for precise objectives. Even the countries that have the longest traditions of mass conscript armies – France and Russia – have recently returned, or shown signs of returning, to an 18th-century model with small professional armies to fight small, professional wars.

The idea that we should intervene in other people's wars – civil wars – to enforce international standards of behaviour takes us back even further. Back beyond 1648, when the delegates at the Peace of Westphalia ended the terrible international and religious Thirty Years' War, which had raged across the whole of Europe. They then agreed a principle which lasted almost 350 years – that what happens within a nation state is that state's business and nobody else's. Diplomacy, war and peace were conducted on that principle. There were civil wars, but "real" wars took place between nations.

No longer. The latest yearbook from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute confirms that the 30-odd "major armed conflicts" under way last year were all internal, civil wars. Yet the armed forces of Britain and France, to name only two major powers, have never been busier.

The implications are profoundly uncomfortable. In the end, we may have to ditch some of our most cherished preconceptions.

We are not now at war. We were not at "war" in the Falklands, either, nor were we at "war" in the Gulf. Yet now we have 18,500 British soldiers in Northern Ireland and 11,000 in Bosnia – a quarter of Britain's "peacetime" army on active service. There are another 30,000 ready to take over every six months, so in the course of a year, half the army at least is called into action for real. We are clearly not at peace, either. As this newspaper suggested last month, we may be seeing the end of "war" and "peace".

We are certainly living through the biggest revolution in strategic thought since at least the time of Karl von Clausewitz (1780-1831).

Most educated people have heard of Clausewitz, but few have read him. His picture comes as a surprise: a sensitive, youthful face, like the writer and philosopher he was, beneath a slightly eccentric, romantic explosion of curly hair.

This was the man whom Basil Liddell Hart, one of Britain's leading military theorists this century, described, wrongly, as "the Mahdi of mass and mutual massacre". Nothing could be further from the truth.

Christopher Bellamy reporting from Grozny, January 1995

Photograph: Greg Williams/ Rex

In the horrors he witnessed during the Napoleonic wars, Clausewitz saw warfare slipping from the leash of political restraints, striving to follow its own logic and threatening to pervert the political objectives for which it was waged.

Clausewitz, who insisted war must remain a tool of politics, was issuing a warning. But subsequent generations blamed him for the slide into "total war" that followed. It was not only a question of 19th-century developments in technology, but of social organisation, as states were able to impose their will on the populace to a greater extent.

"Total war" was waged by the Union at the end of the American Civil War, and reached its full extent in the First and Second World wars. Every aspect of national life was directed towards the war effort. The political objectives for which the wars were started were forgotten as total victory became the only goal.

Then came nuclear weapons. As Professor Richard Overy has argued, they made war more absolute – in the sense that it became possible to annihilate the human race. But they did not necessarily make it more total – in the sense of the First and Second World wars. Far from mobilising the entire resources of the nation to fight in various ways, most of the population, in planning for nuclear war, was written off.

Right through the 1980s, the two great military blocs prepared for Armageddon while realising that in such circumstances, war, as a tool of any rational politics, made no sense. Then came the end of the Cold War, in 1989, and the break-up of the Communist empires, coinciding with the Gulf war.

The result has been utterly dramatic. Like the revolutions in science analysed by Thomas Kuhn, revolutions in warfare embody all the characteristics of paradigm shift.

A paradigm, Kuhn explained, is a whole package of assumptions, procedures and practices that together make up the way the scientific community – in this case, strategists – go about their business. Many of the changes have been around for a while. But suddenly they all coalesce, and there is a revolution. They are often associated with one individual: Copernicus in astronomy, Newton and Einstein in physics, for example. But in fact they embody many ideas that have been circling on the sidelines for years.

So with our new paradigm. In the shadow of total war, smaller, though often still significant wars continued, partly because full-scale conflict between the nuclear-armed powers was too dangerous, and partly because the vast investment necessary to prepare for full-scale nuclear war left nations vulnerable to alternative approaches.

Seventies theories of guerrilla warfare, and what used to be called "low-intensity operations", all have some relevance to the new world order. But so too do the sophisticated military technologies and tactics developed for the Third World War. Many of them, including the US Air Land Battle doctrine and precision-guided munitions – proved ideal for smaller wars where avoiding casualties – your own and the enemy's – was crucial. The 1991 Gulf war and the operations against the Bosnian Serbs in summer 1995 are the prime examples.

Out of the nightmare: Karl von Clausewitz, who first described the idea of total war, which culminated in the prospect of nuclear apocalypse, and a British soldier carrying out a present-day mission – taking religious artefacts for safekeeping

But alongside all this, which pointed to a return to small, professional, highly disciplined 18th-century armies, manoeuvring with precision and often used in support of civil authority, our new paradigm has another element. As the UN Secretary General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, wrote in 1992: "The centuries-old doctrine of absolute and exclusive sovereignty no longer stands, and was never so absolute as it was conceived to be in theory".

The previous year, just after the decision to intervene to help the Iraqi Kurds, against the will of the Iraqi government, not in defence of any vital western interest, as the recapture of Kuwait had been, but in defence of the oppressed.

This phenomenon is perhaps the most extraordinary part of the paradigm. Strategic thinkers now recognise we no longer just fight "wars of necessity" – wars where our immediate vital national interests are affected. We fight "wars of choice" including, in some cases "wars of conscience".

These wars of conscience are clearly driven by moral outrage, often fanned by the media. But they are also a result of changes in the international scene. We live in a global society. Many would argue that there is no direct British national interest involved in Bosnia, never mind the more distant mountain forests of Rwanda and Burundi. But if you belong to a global society, and have a seat at the top table of the world governing body, you cannot separate your vital interests from your responsibilities to the world community. That appears to be the attitude of the present Conservative government, and also of a future Labour government. You do what you do well. You punch above your weight.

We are not, however, ready to intervene in big, well organised states

The change in attitude can be plotted fairly precisely, to just after the Gulf war. The operation to protect and feed the Kurdish refugees in Iraq in April 1991 was the first example of an international military operation of this type, apart from the Congo in 1960-64. A UN force under the command of the UN Secretary-General, complete with its own air force, was initially committed to a peace-keeping task, which later switched to "peace enforcement". It was a unique, remarkable foretaste of what was to follow three decades later. However, all the new-style interventions in other peoples' wars have taken place in what are called "weak" or "failed" states. The international community was prepared to intervene in Iraq, broken by the Gulf war. It was prepared to intervene in Bosnia after the Bosnian government proved incapable of withstanding attack by the rebel Serbs. The international community is still not ready to intervene in big, powerful well-organised states. Northern Ireland is one example. Chechnya is another. The slaughter and atrocities in Chechnya and the media coverage they received – would have initiated massive intervention had they not taken place in Russia. When the nuclear-armed superpower lashed out with its steel-shod paw, there was much muttering. But this was not a puppy to be scolded. This was a bear. They left him alone.

Half a century after the UN Charter was written, it remains unchanged. It was written in the aftermath of the Second World War, when the "United Nations" were, in fact, the victorious powers. It concentrates overwhelmingly on international peace and security. It contains nothing about traditional peace-keeping – the UN's most successful, if accidental, stock-in-trade. And certainly nothing about the whole new spectrum of intervention operations that has opened up between traditional peace-keeping and war. When the UN was created, many envisaged it would have its own armed forces, able to intervene swiftly, untrammelled by national interests and domestic political concerns. Instead, it trawls around for forces, which usually arrive, as in Bosnia and Rwanda, too late. The same may happen in Burundi. The end of "war" and "peace" is a global issue, and requires a global response.

Christopher Bellamy is defence correspondent of the 'Independent' and has reported from the Gulf war, Bosnia and Chechnya. His new book, 'Knights in White Armour – the New Art of War and Peace', is published on Thursday by Hutchinson, £17.99.

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No sack race? What's Olympic about that?

Miles Kington

So far I have avoided all sight of the Olympic Games, except for an accidental glimpse of a Bulgarian girl standing upside down on a piece of wood, but yesterday I did hear a report on Radio 4 that the athletes themselves are unhappy at the arrangements in Atlanta, as the organisation and transport situation is said to be catastrophic.

By coincidence I went to my son's village school sports day yesterday and the contrast was tremendous. Everyone had fun, everything started on schedule, and everything was over before lunchtime. Yes, the Olympic Games could learn a lot from Westwood School.

For a start, it was compact. It started at 9.30am *and was all over by 11.30am.* During that time more than 40 events had been run, ranging in complexity from the bean-bag race to the mothers' egg and spoon race. This involved a lot of sophisticated apparatus – getting the right number of bean bags on the course, or clearing the track of hoops after the hoop race takes some organising, yet it all went like clockwork. And if there were any technical hitches, the organiser of the games herself, or what is technically called the headmistress, was there to call out: "Angela! Take that toddler off the track, would you?" I bet they don't have a hands-on head of the organisation like that in Atlanta.

And there was a great spirit of fairness abroad. It was not only the winner who got the cheers, it was the losers as well. In fact, in some races, the person who came last had more cheers than the winner. Indeed, I noticed that the people who came just last were not cheered half as much as those who came a long way last and were in danger of being overtaken by the leaders of the next race.

The only thing that the school sports day did have in common with Atlanta, perhaps, was media coverage. I may have been the only parent there who did not have a video camera to hand. Technology has clearly affected the games in other ways as I noticed that none of the egg and spoon races were egg and spoon at all; they were golf ball and spoon.

I also noticed that anyone who dropped their golf ball in the egg and spoon race had to pick it up again using only the spoon, not their other hand, although one or two competitors did kick their golf ball a considerable distance before picking it up again, which is not entirely in the spirit of school sports.

On the other hand, I noticed that most competitors in the hurdle relay, if they knocked a hurdle off, turned round and went back and put the hurdle back on again before going on with the race. This was not part of the rules. It was simply an instinct for tidiness and order instilled in them by the school, and even if it tended to cost them the race, I think it shows the right attitude. Would not the Olympic hurdles races be improved if those runners who knocked their hurdles over had to go back and stand them up again instead of leaving a trail of havoc behind? I think so.

One other point of technique is worth mentioning. I noticed that nobody had quite decided which was the best way to get into their sack when the whistle blew for the start – whether to stand and put one leg in after the other, or sit and put the sack over both legs, then try to get up. Of course, you won't learn anything about this from the Olympic Games, because they don't have sack races at the Olympic Games, only really silly events like the women's 10-metre air pistol shooting and softball and synchronised swimming....

No, if it comes to a choice between Westwood School Sports Day and the Olympics, give me Westwood any day. No drugs, no tears, no commentators muttering, "She'll have to do better than this on the parallel bars if she is to stay in contention," no pretence that baseball is an international game or that Andre Agassi is an amateur, no false starts to any race, organisation like clockwork, prizes for everyone and no sign of a national anthem anywhere.

The dangerous 'remedies': National Poisons Unit experts want Chinese specimens to be gathered and catalogued

Beware: herbs that can do you harm

ROGER DOBSON and LIZ HUNT

A national collection of Chinese herbs should be set up at Kew gardens to reduce the incidence of poisoning from traditional remedies, according to a group of senior doctors.

More than 100 cases of poisoning linked to the use of Chinese and other traditional remedies will be listed in a new report which follows a two-year investigation by doctors into the increasing use of "natural" drugs in the UK.

There is mounting concern about the lack of control over imported raw Chinese herbs used to make up such remedies here. There is also concern about the content of pre-packed formulations. Some herbs are badly contaminated with heavy metals and other toxins while others have been wrongly labelled and sold on as a particular herb when they may be something quite different.

Serious liver damage is among the side-effects that have been blamed on the use of toxic alternative medicines and there has been at least one death in the UK. Thirteen cases of serious digestive upset were also reported last year and leading medical journals regularly print letters from doctors with patients who have suffered alarming side-effects from various remedies.

The proposed herbarium at Kew, which would cost around £500,000 and house at least 500 types of herb, would be the first of its kind outside China, and it is estimated that it would be self-financing after four years.

Alternative remedies have been studied by the National Poisons Unit at Guy's Hospital, London, and a report on the findings will be published shortly by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

"We feel very strongly that there is an urgent need to set up the collection because we are getting so many complications and poisonings," Dr Virginia Murray, consultant toxicologist who heads the traditional-remedies project at the unit, said. "Some of these herbs are quite frightening and there have been terrible cases of liver damage."

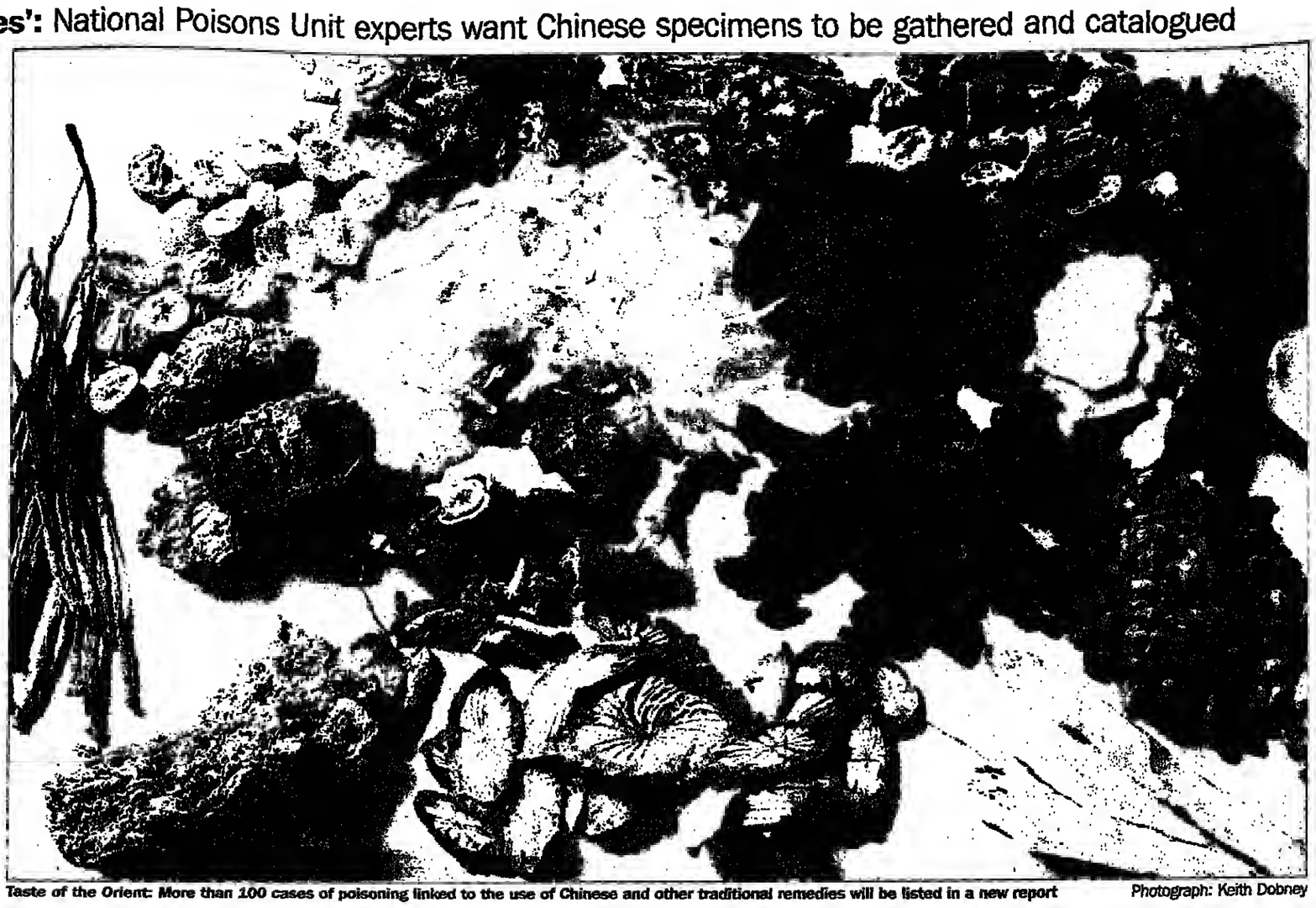
Ken Lloyd, president of The Register of Chinese Herbal Practitioners, and a clinical practitioner and lecturer in the subject, welcomed the call for a national herbarium. "The first rule for any practitioner, Chinese herbalist or conventional doctor is 'do no harm'," he said. "Patient safety is our number one concern and we will support anything that encourages a responsible attitude."

The report is expected to recommend increased monitoring of the booming market in alternative remedies, now worth millions of pounds. A number of universities have been setting up degree courses in the subject; Westminster advertises a BSc in traditional Chinese medicine.

There have recently been calls for a registration scheme for practitioners.

Doctors were warned last week in the *British Medical Journal* about the possibility that a herbal product containing an adulterant herb which can damage the central nervous system had been imported.

Dr Murray said: "There is an urgent need for proper and continuing surveillance. The effects we have found range from minor to significant poisoning and even death."



Taste of the Orient: More than 100 cases of poisoning linked to the use of Chinese and other traditional remedies will be listed in a new report Photograph: Keith Dobney

Medicinal cowboys who cash in and put lives at risk

LIZ HUNT
Health Editor

More than one billion people, a quarter of the world's population, rely on traditional Chinese medicines, derived from herbs and other natural products, to treat major and minor ailments.

The efficacy of these herbal remedies, when used appropriately by a skilled practitioner, is not in doubt. Even the most sceptical of orthodox doctors recognise that 4,000 years of experience and a vast store of clinical data is difficult to argue with. Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) has had success in treating the symptoms of many illnesses, from multiple sclerosis to infertility.

Carol Newall, pharmacist and author of *Herbal Medicine*: a guide for healthcare practitioners, says the tradition has "a huge amount" to offer Western medical practice – but safeguards are necessary. "In China there are cultural safeguards built into the system," she said.

In Britain, the interest in Chinese herbal medicines can be linked to the publicity surrounding the skill of Dr Ding Hui Luo, a practitioner in Chinatown, in Soho, London, who has been selling her acclaimed remedy for eczema for almost 15 years. Some skin specialists refer patients to her, and her remedy will soon be available as a pill, developed by a "herbiceuticals" manufacturer.

But practitioners of TCM acknowledge that the explosive growth of interest in TCM here and throughout Europe has generated problems.

The TCM market has become extremely lucrative, and cowboy practitioners and irresponsible importers can put at risk the health – even the lives – of consumers. Side-effects due to toxic ingredients or contaminants in Chinese remedies, which prompted the investigation by the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Poisons Unit, are not uncommon.

In addition, the raw herbs may have been exposed to pesticides, heavy metals and other contaminants. Imported, prepackaged Chinese medicines have also been found to contain traces of conventional drugs, such as steroids, but there is no indication of this on the label.

Every major town and city in Britain now has at least one TCM clinic, surgery or shop. The demand for gentler alternatives to synthetic drugs is phenomenal but the fact that a remedy is derived from herbs does not mean it is safer. In fact, many of the most powerful drugs prescribed by doctors originate from plants, such as the heart drug digoxin which comes from foxgloves.

Ken Lloyd, president of the Register of Chinese Herbal Medicine, said there are 120 practitioners on the voluntary register who have satisfied a minimum requirement of training. This includes two years of training in Western anatomy, physiology, and pathology; three years of diagnosis, and two years of the philosophy and practice of Chinese herbal medicine with a study visit to China or Vietnam if possible.

However, the number of practitioners on the register represents only a quarter of the total number of practitioners, some of whom may have had only the most basic of training or even no training at all.

"People should be warned that if a practitioner spends only five minutes with a patient before selling them something then they are probably not getting the standard of treatment they should," Mr Lloyd said. "An experienced practitioner would not prescribe anything without taking a full history."

Mr Lloyd is also spearheading a campaign to persuade importers to introduce quality control tests on herbs they sell on to practitioners.

The Chinese herbalists' top ten remedies for common complaints

The herbs most commonly used in Chinese medicine:

Bo He (Chinese mint) – cold and sore throat or sore eyes.

Sheng Jiang (common ginger) – nausea, indigestion. Classified as "warm" – do not use in cases of fever.

Dang Gui (angelica root) – period pains; poor circulation. Also classified as "warm".

Ching Pi (newly-dried peel of mandarin orange) – abdominal pain.

Chen Pi (matured dried peel of mandarin) – abdominal distension, irritable bowel, phlegm on the chest. Known as "warming" and "drying". Not to be used for dry cough or fever.

Gou Qui Zu (bright red berries) – failing eyesight, dryness of the eye. Not to be used if patient has indigestion.

Yi Zhi Ren (black cardamom) – diarrhoea.

Sha Ren (common cardamom) – morning sickness, indigestion.

Yi Yi Ren (Chinese barley) – cellulite; sluggish lymphatic system; carbuncles.

Ren Shen (Ginseng – "man root") – general tonic; especially digestive and lung disorders. "Warming" and "drying" – prolonged overuse can lead to lethargy.

Note: Herbs are almost always prescribed in combination. The Register of Chinese Herbal Medicines advises that in some cases the commonly prescribed remedies listed above may be unsuitable, and that herbal remedies should only be used after consultation with an accredited herbalist.

Ben Summers

Advertising industry's creative minds face questions of taste

MEG CARTER and MATHEW HORSMAN

Sensitivity to sex, violence and profanity in UK advertising is on the increase, but are advertisers themselves in tune with public taste? The Advertising Standards Authority aims to find out next week, when it asks 150 creative directors at a half-day seminar to judge whether 18 controversial advertisements would find acceptance with the general public.

Following the informal survey, which will be conducted using high-tech electronic voting devices, the directors will be given the results of definitive research, sponsored by the ASA, into public attitudes to sex and violence in campaigns.

The Authority expects to uncover a gulf between what the industry finds acceptable and what passes muster with the punter.

Many advertising executives are wary of the exercise, however. Some complain that the ASA is too prudish, and should take greater account of where and when adverts run – for instance in a magazine for young adults, or on a bus shelter. "Why should the same standards apply for a poster campaign as for adverts in *Loaded*?" asked one industry executive.

Another added: "It's alright to be 'boys behaving badly', as long as the advertising reflects the culture."

But not everyone believes the industry is getting it right. Peter York, the style commentator, said: "The new *Loaded* ladspeak advertising reduces refinement and daintiness in public life."

Concern over overt sexual images and innuendo in particular has been fuelled by recent controversial campaigns, not least the UltraBra advert, picturing a reclining, scantily clad woman, with the slogan, "Who says a woman can't get pleasure out of something soft?" The ASA passed that advert, saying that viewers were likely to believe the reference was to the "softness" of the bra in question.

The timing of the seminar is unsurprising. In the latest figures compiled by the ASA, the level of public complaints rose 33 per cent in 1995 to just over 12,800, and is running at about 25 per cent higher so far this year. Chief targets for criticism were adverts for Club 18-30, which ran its notorious 'Beaver Espana' campaign on poster sites until it was banned by the ASA, and a whole range of adverts from Benetton, the Italian clothing company, which uses strong images of race and sexuality to shift sweaters.

The Club 18-30 campaign, created by Saatchi & Saatchi, also featured a close-up picture of a man's boxers, complete with evident bulge, with the slogan "package holiday". This was meant to attract women to the Club's holiday destinations.

Most recently, ads for Vauxhall, featuring "bondage" images of women and for Firkin beer ("You be Firkin legless") have created controversy at the ASA.

Gloves on and off in cricket libel trial

CLARE GARNER

The High Court is hardly the Oval, but a former England wicketkeeper yesterday took a trip down memory lane in the continuing cricket libel trial.

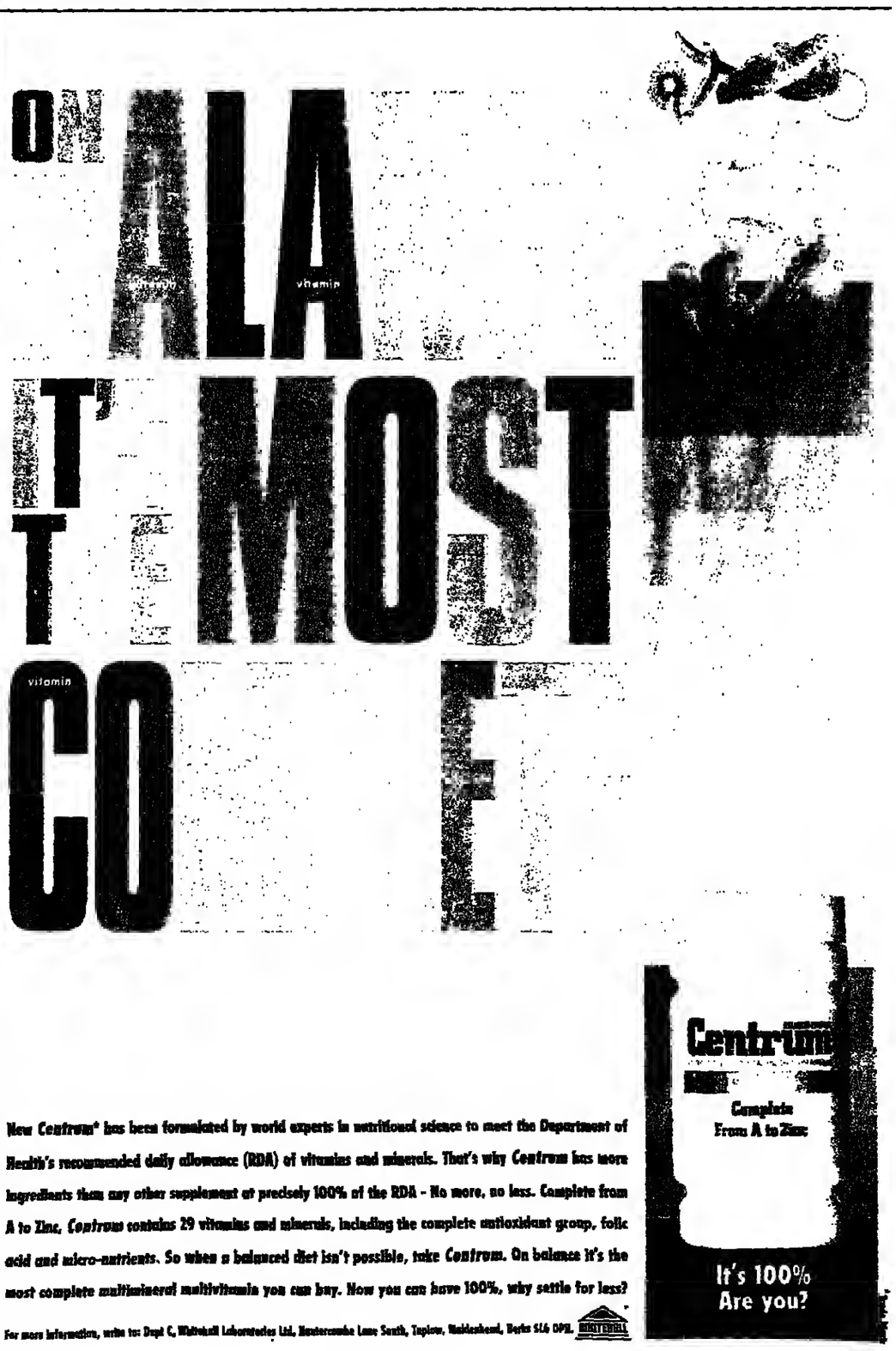
Bob Taylor was handed a new pair of wicket-keeping gloves by George Carman – representing Imran Khan – to illustrate exactly what he was doing in television footage from the 1982 Test match against India. "They may bring back memories for you," remarked Mr Carman, handing over the gloves. But Charles Gray – representing Ian Botham and Allan Lamb, and a legendary adversary of Mr Carman – went one better. He whipped the originals out of his bag. Mr Taylor's old fashioned gloves had been retrieved from the Long Room at Lord's especially for the occasion. "These will bring back even more memories," ceded Mr Carman as Mr Taylor slipped his hands into the very gloves he wore in 1982.

"Do you remember these gloves?" asked Mr. Justice French. "Very well," replied Mr. Taylor. "I probably wore these gloves when the incidents took place ..."

Botham and Lamb, are suing Imran for libel over an "offensive personal attack" on them in the magazine *India Today* which called them racist, under-educated and lacking class and upbringing. Botham is also suing Imran over a story in the *Sun* which, he claims, accused him of ball-tampering.

Imran alleges that when Botham threw a new ball to Taylor in the 1982 Test against India at the Oval, it was a breach of the laws of cricket. But Mr Taylor said there was nothing unusual in this, despite the fact that the BBC commentator Ted Dexter remarked that Taylor was giving the ball "a thorough going-over" and he had never seen the likes of it before.

In 23 years of playing Test and county cricket with and against Botham, Mr Taylor said he had never seen him tamper with the ball. As for himself, he illustrated what he had been doing back in 1982. "Is that it?" asked Mr Carman. "Tossing it from one glove to the other."



Cab napping: A van driver soaking up the sun near Newport, Essex, yesterday, England's hottest day of the year, with temperatures reaching 90F (32C) at RAF Marham, Norfolk, and at other spots. However, cooler weather was spreading in Photograph: Brian Harris

Birt supporter appointed head of BBC2

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Mark Thompson, head of factual programmes at the BBC and veteran of the *Nine O'Clock News* and *Panorama*, was yesterday appointed the new controller of BBC2, beating five other short-listed candidates.

Known internally as a "Birtian" because of his close association with John Birt, the BBC's director-general, Mr Thompson, 38, said: "The ability of the channel to serve so many people so well is what makes it such a rich and interesting channel. I am determined to keep that momentum up."

BBC2 has performed well above expectations in recent years, under the direction of Michael Jackson, who last month was named director of television and controller of BBC1 under a controversial management restructuring. His replacement by Mr Thompson completes the main appointments under the reorganisation, which saw BBC1's former controller, Alan Yentob, become director of programmes for BBC production.

The new controller: Mark Thompson, head of BBC2

Mr Jackson, who was responsible for such BBC2 hits as *Our Friends in the North* and *The House*, a documentary about the Royal Opera House, said that Mr Thompson would bring "a great deal of intelligence and flair to the channel, and I think it is going to be a very interesting watch for all of us".

Mr Thompson said: "The direction BBC2 is heading is the right one, and we must keep absolute faith with the BBC2 heartland." He added that the channel has become more popular but has not lost sight of its mission to provide quality drama and documentaries.

The appointment will have disappointed Paul Hamman, head of documentaries, who had been widely tipped. One of the country's best known documentary film makers, he would have been a more "demanding but artistic choice", one BBC insider said. Also passed over was Jeremy Gibson, head of features at BBC Bristol.

Mr Birt had been criticised in recent weeks for his restructuring of the BBC's production and broadcasting operations. Mr Thompson yesterday defended the Birtian revolution, saying: "I'm convinced that the changes that John has suggested make sense, and I think overall the way BBC has changed over the past few years has been for the better."

Mr Birt has also been criticised for having appointed only men to senior positions in his controversial restructuring. A BBC spokesman rejected the criticism yesterday, saying that there was had been more than one woman on the short-list.

BBC2 last year overtook Channel 4 as the country's third most popular channel, with an 11.2 per cent audience share.

Mr Thompson has been with the BBC since 1979, when he was a production trainee. He became editor of the *Nine O'Clock News* in 1988 and editor of *Panorama* in 1990.

■ Sir Christopher Bland, BBC chairman, has written to all 242 MPs who signed a Commons motion seeking guarantees over the future of the World Service, telling them the corporation "can unhesitatingly give those guarantees". He promised that a dedicated team would tailor programming specifically for the service under proposed changes.

Taxpayer foots £565-a-day consultant's bill

CHRIS BLACKHURST
Westminster Correspondent

A management consultant on a government project charged £565 a day, five days a week, for five years, running up a total bill to the taxpayer of £678,000.

The figures were revealed in documents sent to the *Independent* which show an extraordinarily high level of billing by the project management and public relations consultants on the Crossrail scheme, set up to build a railway line linking Liverpool Street station in the east of London with Paddington in the west.

The Government announced earlier this year that the £2.6bn project was being postponed for at least 7 years, prompting some commentators to doubt if it will ever go ahead.

Under parliamentary questioning, Sir George Young, the Secretary of State for Transport, admitted that the project has spent £124m on external consultants. Most of these were designers, architects, engineers and surveyors. However, the papers sent to the *Independent* reveal that two firms of project-management consultants had 44 staff working on the scheme full time for up to five years and were charging daily rates throughout that period. Many of the 44 were public relations consultants, some were community relations specialists, and a couple liaised with Parliament.

The documents raise further questions about the Government using consultants, instead of the much cheaper civil servants. The firms' staff had their own offices at the Crossrail headquarters and were, effectively, full-time employees of the London Transport-run project.

As well as the individual charging £678,000, the papers reveal:

■ A management consultant who charged £540 a day, or £129,600 a year, giving a total over five years of £648,000;

■ Two of his colleagues each cost £450 a day, four cost £400 a day, eight were £315 a day and four £280;

■ Crossrail was paying the firms for secretaries at £195 a day;

■ A freelance PR consultant charged Crossrail £400 a day, 52 weeks a year, since the taxpayer paid her even while she was on holiday, and she received free first-class rail travel to and from her home in rural Surrey.

The figures are made more stark by the fact that, according to a former employee on the Crossrail project, there was not much for the consultants to do. Many of the advisers' staff members spent much of their day, he said, reading newspapers and drinking coffee.

If the Department of Transport had given the go-ahead earlier this year, then the process of buttering up MPs, and persuading the press of its merits would have begun in earnest. But instead, the Government put the line on the back burner.

Hiring consultants on a daily basis rather than on short-term contracts was, according to an internal project source, deemed necessary because the scheme could have been scrapped at a moment's notice, leaving the taxpayer to foot the bill for the outstanding terms on the contracts. In the event, it was not cancelled and the consultants enjoyed the option of charging a daily rate for five years.

A London Transport spokesman said: "Crossrail made no secret of the fact it has used consultants to fulfil very specialised roles and has always achieved good value for money."

Glenda Jackson, MP, Labour's spokeswoman on transport in London, said the situation was "scandalous" and said she would raise the matter of daily rates in the Commons.

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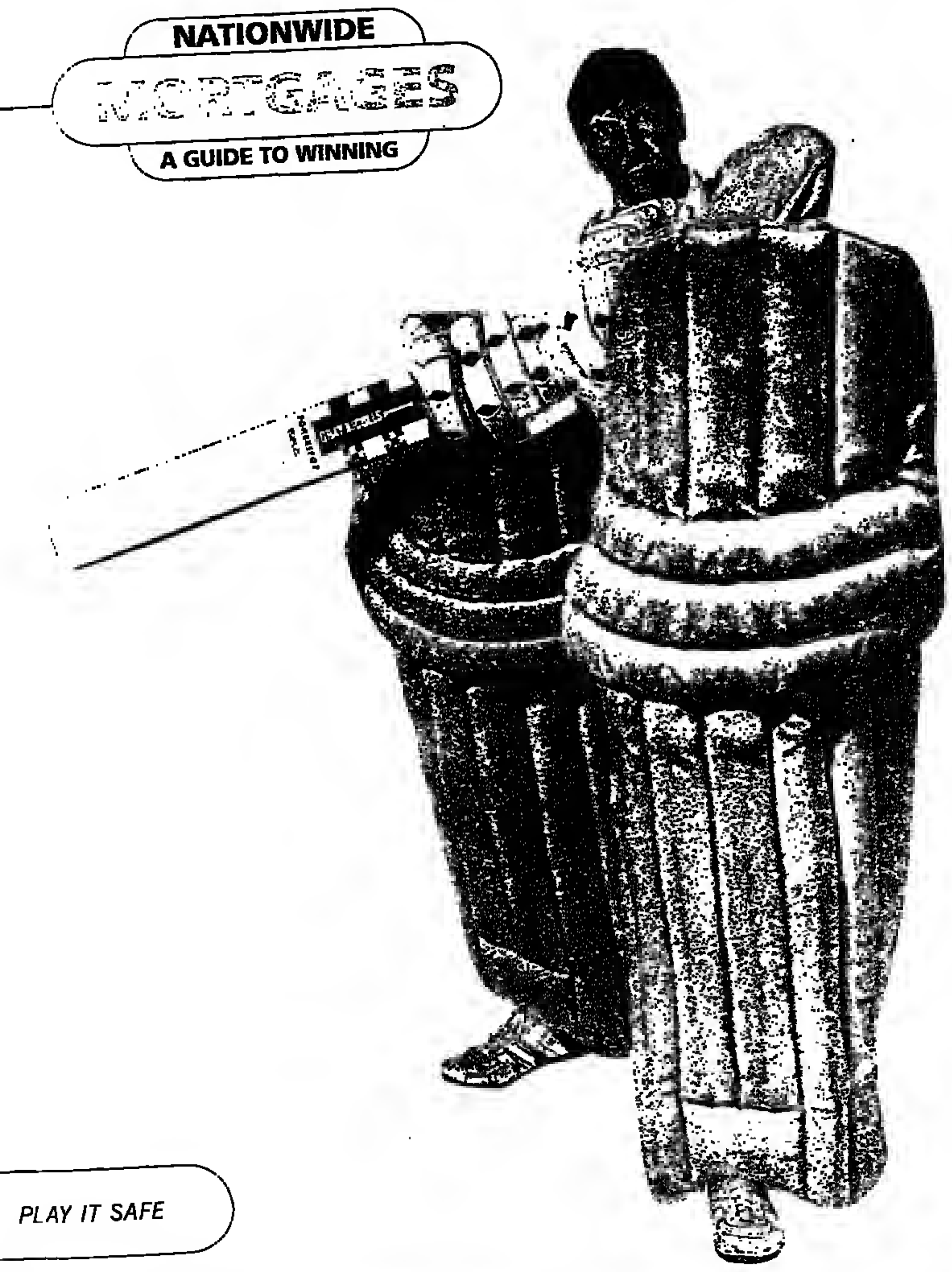

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the commentators

The delusion of being earnest ...

David Heathcoat-Amory's resignation may be principled, but it will not achieve its purpose

DONALD MACINTYRE

For a man who has the distinction of being the first minister to resign explicitly over the single currency, David Heathcoat-Amory has always been oddly shy of the limelight. Until he walked out the junior Treasury post of Paymaster General yesterday, he has never much courted publicity. He had been glad, after an unhappy spell at the Foreign Office, to retreat into the bowels of the Treasury to grapple with the mind-bending intricacies of European budget negotiations and VAT. But once he had decided to go, back in May, he was deaf to entreaties to change his mind.

To understand why this will make Heathcoat-Amory such a hero on the Tory right, it's worth considering for a moment the contrasting case of David Davis, the other minister to throw a tantrum on Europe in recent weeks. Indeed, Heathcoat-Amory's resignation will lend further currency to the charge that Davis – who threatened to resign from his job as Minister of State for Europe in the Foreign Office, and is now staying put – acted more out of personal ambition than on a clear issue of principle.

The anti-Davis version is that he was advised that to advance into the Cabinet he needed to express his deep discontent to John Major by "throwing a wobbly". One persistent suggestion is that he took the advice too literally and that it came from Alan Clark, a patrician Tory with long experience of knocking on the Cabinet door – and whom he visited in Kent during his weeks of turmoil. He thought he could make a better job of running Agriculture than Douglas Hogg. And the last straw, amazing as such trifles seem to those outside the Westminster village, was the award in the Queen's Birthday Honours of a Privy Councillorship to David Curry, an able minister of the same rank and an ardent pro-European.

The pro-Davis version firmly rejects all this. He sought out Major only to express his frustration about the increasingly aggressive federalism of Britain's EU partners and the Government's failure, before the policy of non-cooperation, to make any headway in the beef crisis. He was partly talked out of resigning because it would have compounded the impact of Heathcoat-Amory's own departure, which was known to Major and had been hanging over the Government since May. And the story came out because of a black propaganda campaign by pro-Europeans intent on defending Hogg against widespread criticism over BSE.

But whatever the truth of the Davis affair, Heathcoat-Amory seems to have acted largely from motives of policy rather than personal ambition. It is not true that Kenneth Clarke offered him the job of heading negotiations on the preparation for European Monetary Union. In two attempts to prevent him going, Clarke did suggest his junior minister might have more influence over, and access to, the discussions on EMU being carried out by officials at the Treasury and the Bank of England. But to no avail. It is safe to assume, therefore, that by going where Davis feared to tread, Heathcoat-Amory thought he had a real chance of tipping the balance in favour of his most cherished objective: that of persuading Major finally to rule out a single currency in the next Parliament.

> A Clarke resignation would put the Government at risk

Despite the tremor he will cause by launching his campaign under the banner of the Bruges Group today, however, he won't succeed. The solemn pact the Cabinet struck in March to keep open the question of joining the single currency, shows every sign of holding. It's not merely that Clarke would go if the pact fell apart. It's also that Michael Heseltine and, at least as importantly given his own hostility to a single currency, Malcolm Rifkind, are robustly opposed to any attempt to re-open policy on monetary union before the general election. Three of Major's four most senior Cabinet ministers therefore accept the argument that Britain must not lose its influence over the planning of EMU, whether it eventually joins or not. What's more, it is utter fantasy to suggest that a Clarke resignation would not put the Government's survival at risk. A total of 20 ministers of state have already signed up to the pro-European Conservative Mainstream, an organisation that will bear a keynote speech from Douglas Hurd at its opening conference in September. Several of these might well follow Clarke out of the Government. And further defections to the Opposition from the pro-European backbench left could not be ruled out.

The one event that could change all that would be if Tony Blair decided to rule out a single currency. Right-wing Tories have shown an unhealthy fascination with last week's press hints that Blair might do just that. The more they are denied and Blair professes himself baffled by their provenance, the more they are intrigued. It's true that some quite prominent Labour frontbenchers will tell you privately that Britain is not yet ready for a single currency. Yet even if Blair did not accept all the arguments set out on this page by Giles Radice, he isn't going to rule out a single currency, however tempting the short-term advantage might be.

It's not simply that much of the City and industry, freed from any incentive to collaborate in the the Tories' sullen neutrality on the issue, might swing in favour if and when Labour wins the election. By blindly sacrificing in advance the option of joining EMU, Labour risks before it is even elected the very market credibility it has so painstakingly sought to construct. Labour is not going to force Major to change his mind. Heathcoat-Amory is the hero of the hour on the Tory right. But it may be Davis who in the end had the shrewder reckoning of what a brick wall he was beating his head against.

... and the importance of staying single

A European common currency is too important to abandon for electoral gains, says **Giles Radice**

As Parliament goes into the summer recess, the Eurosceptics are making desperate efforts to get the Government and the main opposition party to rule out Britain joining a European single currency within the lifetime of the next parliament. The Paymaster General, David Heathcoat-Amory, has resigned, so he can put the arguments against the single currency, while 50 Eurosceptic Labour MPs have produced an anti-single currency pamphlet. Last week, the Murdoch press published a story, strongly denied by the Blair office, that the Labour leader was about to announce that a Labour government would not join the single currency in the next parliament. The purpose of the story was presumably not merely to destabilise the Labour Party but to put extra pressure on the Conservative government.

I believe that it would be disastrous if any British government, Tory or Labour, ruled out joining a single currency. There is a strong economic and political case for Britain joining the European single currency. A single currency would save the foreign exchange and other transactional costs, amounting, according to the European Commission, to more than 15 billion ecus a year, equivalent to a trade tax for the UK of £3bn per annum, a cost which falls disproportionately on exporters and small businesses.

The crucial benefit, however, is the contribution a single currency would make to monetary stability and to economic growth. Interest rates should be significantly lower because the risk premium attached to weaker currencies would no longer be necessary. Lower interest rates and a more stable economic environment would encourage more investment and trade and so stimulate extra growth. An authoritative study by Christopher Johnson, published last week by Penguin, estimates that the annual net gain for Britain from membership of the single currency would be a 0.5 per cent increase in the rate of growth, which would accumulate over 10 years to 6 per cent of £42bn.

In any case, the question for any British government is likely to be not so much, in principle, whether a single currency is a good thing, but whether if France and Germany – along with Austria, the Benelux countries, and certainly one or two Scandinavian countries – go ahead with a single currency, Britain can sensibly stay out. It would be foolish for any British politician to underestimate the commitment to the single currency project by the overwhelming majority of the political and business class across the Continent. It is increasingly likely that the 1998 deadline will be met by a critical mass of countries.

Imagine what would happen if the next British government announced that it had decided to stay out. Markets would assume that our decision-makers were wedded to currency depreciation. As a consequence, British interest rates would also have to rise still further. Already the cost to the British taxpayer of the risk premium demanded by the markets is of the order of £5bn-£7bn. Higher interest rates would harm growth and employment.

> If we stay out, we will lose influence in key issues

Britain would lose influence in the development of the single currency and probably other key European issues if we decided to stay out. The probability is that, even if we did decide to stay out, the markets would force Britain to join in humiliating circumstances, instead of a time of our own choosing – hardly the right environment for seeking the public support for British membership to which both Conservatives and Labour are committed.

The Conservative government and the Labour opposition must stand firm on their present policies of keeping the option of Britain joining the single currency. As regards the Labour leadership, it may be justified in being publicly cautious about entry. But behind closed doors, it should be planning for membership. And it should back the TUC's bold campaign to explain the advantages of a single European currency. Otherwise, the Eurosceptics could steal a march in winning over public opinion.

The writer is MP for Durham North (Lab) and chairman of the European Movement.

Let's hear it for the brothel

Legalised prostitution could provide centres of healthy satisfaction. **Melvyn Bragg** calls on Parliament to assent

Why are we so frightened of legalising brothels? A colleague of mine who was working on a documentary about prostitution in the King's Cross area of London found a morass of disease, sleaze, drugs, blackmail, pimp-violence and official corruption. Legalised brothels could prevent most of that.

In countries that tolerate brothels, the incidence of sexual abuse and the sexual abuse of children is lower than it is here. Yet what are we up to now? Parliament, at its most futile, has set up an All-Party Prostitution Group, led by Diane Abbot, which is kerb-crawling its way through the Commons and demanding, among other things, that prostitutes be given community service and clients arriving by car have their licences endorsed. Not a lot of humour in the All-Party Prostitution Group.

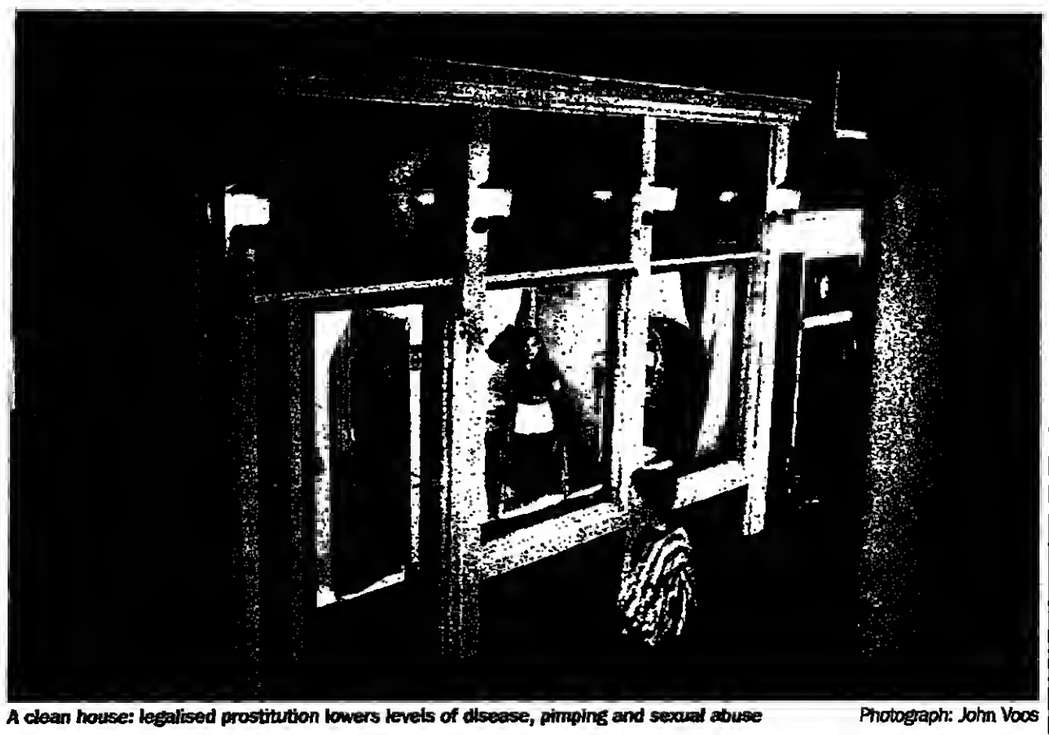
Meanwhile sexual titillation is becoming torrential. Hen-nights assume the character of the Theatre of Riot – far more so than the tame little stag-nights – and repro-Chippendales sweat down to their last spangled jock-strap and then begin wildly looking for the emergency exits as the lusts of Messalina surge through the thighs of suburbia.

Peter Stringfellow gets a police licence in the West End for "lap-dancing". I saw it on Richard Littlejohn's television programme – pubescents grindingly simulating sex full-on in front of immobile males who feared to move in case they got arrested. In a prime West End theatre, a few yards from the Mother of Parliaments, a new show opens called *Voyeurz* projects a lascivious performance that would have been banned in a Soho strip club not long ago. The top racks of newsagencies nationwide groan under the combined weight and embarrassment of splayed, engorged private parts. Hollywood is damn-near explicit and late-night British TV is showing a determination not to be left out.

Which is fine by me, but in this environment brothels would seem to have everything to recommend them: health checks for both parties, panic buttons for the women or men selling their services, age control – and these are the least of what an entrepreneur like Richard Branson could turn into an opulent centre for "healthy satisfaction" ("Virgin Brothels" – what title could better suit the English?) But brothels remain off the agenda.

Of course there will always be a minority on both sides of the transaction that wants the sleaze and the risk, and no doubt they will retain it even in the most brothelised of societies. But they are surely marginal to the main argument.

Meanwhile, there are a few small signs. In Edinburgh a limited experiment in legalised prostitution has achieved its aims, and there are improvements very similar to the successes secured in those few lucky areas that have been able to run an enlightened clean-needle and controlled-drug policy. But it does not seem to be gathering moral support.



A clean house: legalised prostitution lowers levels of disease, pimping and sexual abuse Photograph: John Voos

There is, of course, a traditional and legitimate objection to brothels from those who believe that family values would be undermined, even more decisively than they are at present, were bolholes for promiscuity sanctioned by Parliament. This is a fair point; but alas its time appears to have gone, if indeed it was ever truly here – at the time of high Victorian morality, the Strand was lined with child prostitutes. That view depends on a universal acclamation of monogamy and the sacred shackles of the family, and wonderful though this is for some, it does not take enough into account.

You simply cannot force everyone into the same-shaped box. And for a thousand and one reasons there have been and there will always be men and women who want to seek paid sexual gratification. Allowing it to continue in its present dangerous way is cowardly.

But who will be the brave Horatio in the House of Commons and move the Bill and seek the support and withstand the hounding that could well come from the press, and the scolding that might proceed from Their Lordships and Their Ladyships and the full gale force 10 of the Brits in a high puff of morality? One suspects that no man could. This in my opinion is the true reason for the decline in our respect for Parliament; not its petty corruptions but the refusal of its members to do anything that might dent their electoral prospects.

Given the attitude to sex that certain media masters manipulate and exploit so cunningly in this country – alternately leering pompous, jeering hypocritical, pious prurient, everything but adult – the idea of legalising brothels is probably paralysed in its starting blocks. One hope remains. No man would dare to chance it. It would have to be a woman MP. She would need to be bold and tough; be known to know about sex and be interested in it and be unafraid to talk about it; be unafraid of the spotlight when the arc lamps of publicity swing onto her; and a street fighter. I nominate Edwina Currie.

Her private life is unimpeachable. Her energy is formidable. Her sexual explicitness – in her novels – seems cheerfully accepted by her fellow MPs, in whose chamber she locates many an erotic act. She could clean out the blocked drain in our ethical plumbing and emerge as a heroine of the people. Edwina Currie – your time has come.

An identity crisis we should not be having

Rather than an assault on civil liberties, Frank Field's drive for a DNA fingerprint card is a just cause

POLLY TOYNBEE

A compulsory identity card imprinted with the DNA genetic fingerprint of every citizen has just been proposed by Frank Field, the Labour MP and chair of the Commons Social Security Committee. He wants a universal database aimed at stamping out benefit fraud and solving crime. The DNA blood test virtually proves identity. Mr Field would like the tests given to every baby at birth and to all newcomers to Britain. His committee is publishing a report in the autumn, and he hopes that Labour will take it up as a firm policy.

A yelp of fright and indignation greeted this suggestion. "Impossible." "Certainly not." "The civil rights issues are too sensitive" were some of the instant Labour responses yesterday. Chris Smith, Labour's Shadow Social Security Secretary, rules it out as a Big Brother scheme. Jack Straw reiterated Labour's long-standing objection to compulsory ID cards, but supports a voluntary scheme.

[illegible] aroused by the issues [illegible] and atavistic – but scarcely [illegible] an over-mighty state looms, [illegible] eye peers into the soul [illegible] genes, empowering every [illegible] and busy-body. The [illegible] debate on ID cards in Cabinet forced even Michael Howard to retreat. Rational or not, it touches deep chords from left to right: an Englishman's word is his identity and only jack-booted foreigners make citizens carry cards.

Deeper lies another fantasy: any of us could break free at any time, take a train to a new town, become a new person without a history. It is that fantasy which makes amnesia cases such powerfully romantic stories. But of course the world has not been like that for a very long time. Legally, you may change your name, but you still have your old National Insurance number, your previous work record, your tax record, so the law never lets you disappear. We all already carry invisible ID cards.

But Frank Field is, as ever, persuasive on the subject. When he starts talking about his committee's evidence on social security fraud, he makes a powerful case for identification of all citizens. He suggests that the Government's estimates of £2.5bn of benefit fraud are well short of the real figure.

There are, for instance, a staggering 15 million National Insurance numbers free-floating in the system that no one can account for. A very large proportion of those may be being used for fraud by highly sophisticated and organised gangs that thrive on the ease of gaining a false identity.

> 'Large-scale organised fraud' is responsible for most benefit money lost

Anyone can claim a dead or living person's NI number without their knowledge. He cites a recent case where parents whose twin babies had died 18 years ago got a call to say one was held in a detention centre – a case of stolen identity. A man who went to register as unemployed was told he was already in prison. A benefit fraud investigator recently found that his own NI number was being used by someone else to claim benefit. When someone dies, no mark is made on their birth certificate, nor does the registrar ask for the deceased's NI number to ensure that the departed is struck off.

"People talk about fraud as if it was women with a boyfriend on the side, or someone doing a bit of extra moonlighting. But most of the money is lost in large-scale organised fraud involving false identity," Frank Field says. His ID cards would be issued at birth, with each person's NI and NHS number, their DNA, an updated photograph and coded information on their date of birth and address, which would, he believes, make false identity benefit fraud practically impossible.

In September the Benefits Agency starts a rolling programme of new cards for claimants, but they are not ID cards. They will stop theft of order books and save huge printing costs, but in themselves they will do little to make it harder to acquire a card on a false identity.

They will not carry photographs. The signature on them will be readable and thus easy to copy. There will be no chance for counter clerks to read secret information and ask the claimant questions such as their address or date of birth – a basic check that even firms such as Blockbuster make on renting out a video. However, these cards could well be adapted in future.

The real objection to Frank Field's scheme does not concern civil liberties but basic practicalities. It currently costs £44 a time for a DNA blood test – try multiplying that by 56 million, plus the cost of the whole system and the database. He claims it will catch rapists, but the number of rapes by strangers is small and the number of times blood is conveniently left at the scene of a crime hardly justifies such gigantic cost. The police are not pressing for it.

Frank Field may find himself out on a limb on this issue, since most of the experts say there are plenty of simpler, cheaper ways to tighten up on the true identity of claimants without the need for the entire population to carry ID cards. An interesting test will come when the Government is expected to launch voluntary ID cards. Either no one will apply for them or they will rapidly become essential for most transactions. If they do become de facto compulsory, will that undermine our basic civil liberties? I cannot see why the law-abiding need feel threatened.

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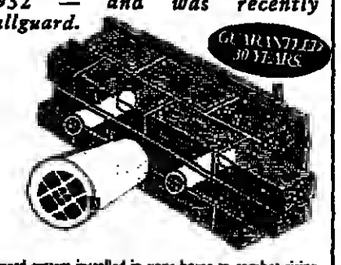

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obituaries / gazette

Professor Etienne Mureinik

South Africa has lost a brave human rights activist, academic and jurist in the death, apparently by suicide, of Etienne Mureinik, former dean of the faculty of law at the University of the Witwatersrand and a member of the Judicial Services Commission.

His death is a watershed event for the mainly English-speaking white liberal establishment in South Africa, suggesting severe strains in its relation with the aspiring black middle class.

Mureinik was 42 when he fell from the 23rd storey of a hotel in Braamfontein, Johannesburg, not far from the university, on Wednesday 10 July. He had had a brilliant career at the university, joining the faculty of law in 1977 and becoming professor in 1987 at the age of 32. He was dean of faculty from 1991 to 1993.

He helped draft the Bill of Rights for the new constitution and was constitutional adviser to the Democratic Party.

As well as being a personal tragedy, Mureinik's death has wide significance because of his stance as a leading human rights lawyer at the junction of academic life and the legal system in South Africa. During the transition to the new political conditions in the country, he saw it as his moral duty to test the credentials of new appointees to the judicial system and to the highest offices in his university.

He took a highly exposed stand, at a time of acute tension in the universities. In a society in which wealth and destitution are so sharply and so visibly divided, and in which a degree can mean the difference between an income and no income, there has been powerful pressure on campus from black students for a relaxation of conditions for degree passes.

With South Africa's entrenched divisions of wealth and poverty, and their convergence along the line of race, white students enter university with a massive advantage in terms of "cultural capital", to adapt Bourdieu's phrase – not least because they study through English or Afrikaans as their first language, while black students at a university such as Wits, the victims of Bantu education under the old regime, study mainly through English as a second language.

On many campuses, political consciousness of relative inherited disability has led many black students to adopt the demand: "Pass one, pass all." Widespread agitation for the abolition of exams or at least for a relaxation of qualifying standards played a major part in the closure of the University of Natal at Durban, Westville, last month, following more than a year of conflict and fear on the campus. Student demagogy was taken up at junior lecturer level.

To some degree, the universities have inherited the ethos of the "lost generation" of the 1984-86 township revolt, when agitation around the slogan "Liberation before education" led to the closure of black schools for a very long time.

Etienne Mureinik was at the centre of this conflict in the universities, as one of the most prominent academics to take a stand. Possible downgrading of South African degrees is already an issue internationally. Mureinik took up the matter as his own affair.

In 1994 he was prominent in questioning the former ANC activist Professor Albie Sachs in relation to Sachs's appointment to the Constitutional Court. A political exile for over 20 years, Sachs was very nearly killed in 1988 in an attempt on his life by South African Military Intelligence in Mozambique, where he was Professor of Law at Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo.

Returning to South Africa in May 1990 after the release of Nelson Mandela, Sachs admitted at a mass meeting at the University of Cape Town that he had previous knowledge of human rights abuses in ANC camps in exile, conceding that the ANC had "mistreated" some of its own members. This was later confirmed in a number of inquiries, including one by Amnesty International.

Mureinik: commitment to justice

It emerged in August 1993 that Sachs had been a commissioner in an ANC inquiry early in 1990 into the death in ANC custody of one of its senior guerrilla commanders. No reference to these matters however appeared in Sachs's book *Protecting Human Rights in a New South Africa* (1990).

Mureinik'a intensive questioning of Sachs, on a matter central to the judicial process, was directed towards this complex issue of authoritarian practice in exile. His concern was that post-apartheid South Africa be a law-governed society.

Inevitably, his questioning of one of the most celebrated legal figures in the struggle against racism rendered him liable to the accusation – a serious misrepresentation – of being a defender of white privilege.

This was compounded by his participation in a protest by 13 senior liberal and left-wing academics in the "Makgoba affair" at the University of the Witwatersrand. This related to the appointment of Professor William Malegapuru Makgoba, an immunologist, as the first black Deputy Vice-Chancellor. There was sharp conflict at the university when the academics queried Makgoba's qualifications, followed by counter-charges in which he accused them of racism and personal corruption.

An inquiry by an international committee exonerated the 13 academics, leading to Makgoba's resignation as Deputy Vice-Chancellor to take up an appointment as secretary to the Society for the Advancement of Science.

In an emotive article in December last year, Mureinik wrote that the word "liberal" – a term of abuse in the period of apartheid – had once again become a "stigma label", but now instead of equating with Communist it meant "so far to the right as to be almost racist".

"Naked, uncritical racial solidarity" among black journalists in the Makgoba affair, and even extending to the Minister of Education, Sibusiso Bhengu, he wrote, could "destroy all hope" of equal accountability.

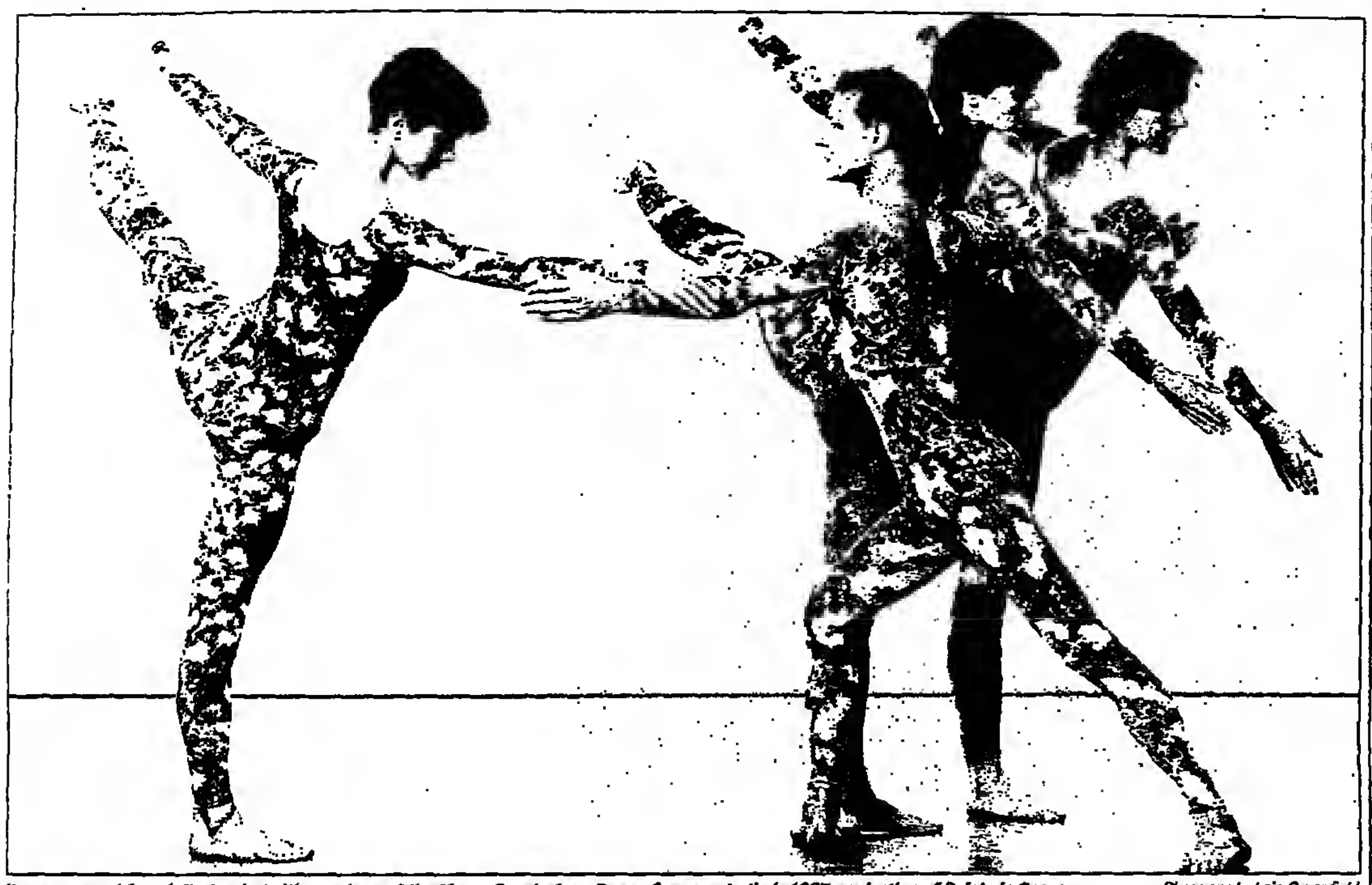
"The question now is not the future of the 13 'monkeys' whom Makgoba has promised to 'tame' . . . The question now is whether South Africans want quality universities – universities in which transformation means quality teaching and research for the benefit of all our communities, not crude ethnic cleansing."

In the context of the powerful demand for black advancement in the professions, and in his determination to secure legal and academic standards to international levels, Mureinik became a much-abused and very lonely person. Colleagues have described him as having been depressed for several months before his death.

A colleague and friend, Professor Martin Brassey, described him as a person with a "really magnificent mind" and a "passionate commitment to justice". Other leading figures in the academic and legal professions spoke similarly. According to Brassey, "irrational attacks" on Mureinik had taken their toll: "The world just overwhelmed him."

Paul Trewhela

Etienne Mureinik, jurist: born 1954; Professor of Law, University of the Witwatersrand, 1987-96, Dean, Faculty of Law 1991-93; married; died Johannesburg 10 July 1996.


Komar, second from left, dancing with members of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company in their 1987 production of *Points in Space* Photograph: Lois Greenfield

Chris Komar

The American dancer Chris Komar devoted his professional life and his multifaceted talent to the work of the pioneering choreographer Merce Cunningham. He was named Assistant Artistic Director of Cunningham's company in 1992. Working with him, Komar said a few years ago, "is so amazing to me, and so fulfilling. It keeps adding to my life – and not just to my life as a dancer, but to my whole life."

I remember how open and friendly Komar was on the strength of a casual introduction, and with what warmth and intelligence he readily spoke of Cunningham's work. The intelligence and understanding, which Komar exhibited so plentifully in performing, made him a valuable and valued assistant to Cunningham. Through sharing the teaching and rehearsing of the company and setting dances on other groups, he was instrumental in freeing Cunningham's time for concentrating on new work. The choreographer said of him, "He has an astonishing memory about details or shapes, how it felt, the proportion, the look of it, the transitions."

Like many contemporary dancers, who do not face the time constraints ballet dancers do, Komar earned a college degree, a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in dance from the University of Wisconsin, after switching from a major in music. He joined the faculty there and danced for two years as a charter member of the Milwaukee Ballet Company.

On seeing the Cunningham company perform in Milwaukee, however, he became convinced it was the place for him, and he went to New York to study with the choreographer. He became a full-fledged member of the company in 1972. More than 20 years later, having been with the company longer than anyone but Cunningham himself, and having appeared in most of Cunningham's works during that time, he was still performing with gusto and focus.

Komar had a wonderful energy, a big jump and a way of landing straight into the most amazing twists that Cunningham could devise. His darting, loose-jointed quickness made him right at home with the bird-like images that pepper Cunningham's work. A poignant memory of him is in Cunningham's contemplative *Inlets*: a vulnerable figure pausing with elbows pinned back and throat exposed, like Isaac to Abraham's knife.

He began teaching at the widely influential Cunningham Studio almost immediately, and in repertory workshops all over the United States and Europe. He had the primary responsibility for staging Cunningham works, which he did for numerous troupes, including Rambert Dance Company (it has several Cunningham pieces in its repertoire), the Paris Opera Ballet, American Ballet Theatre and Werkcentrum Dans in Rotterdam. Before becoming Assistant Artistic Director, Komar had the title Assistant to the Choreographer. He also directed the Repertory Understudy Group, composed of students. In 1992 he created for them a new (actually third) version of *Inlets*, using chance procedures explained to him by Cunningham, an aspect of Cunningham's work that fascinated him.

Komar's contributioo to the field was honoured in 1991 by a New York Dance and Performance Award (Bessie).

Marilyn Hunt

Chris Komar, dancer: born Milwaukee, Wisconsin 30 October 1947; died 17 July 1996.

Peter Raleigh

Peter Raleigh was one of the BBC's best foreign correspondents, renowned for his insight into the French character while he was based in Paris, and for his courage in Algeria during the civil war. At the age of 47 his career took a different tack. He became one of the programme planners in the BBC television service at a time of increasingly complex development. Eventually he became Head of the Programme Planning Group before taking early retirement in 1977.

Raleigh was at Bradfield College, which he did not regard as a greatly enjoyable school. "Even its official chronicler speaks of its hearty and brutal atmosphere," he once wrote. But he had a basic toughness. "As a skinny member of the boxing team for four years, I could survive." In 1937 he won an Exhibition to read Modern Languages at King's College, Cambridge. Two years later the Second World War broke out.

Raleigh volunteered immediately and in 1940 was commissioned as a midshipman in the RNVR. As a Heavy Artillery Gunnery Officer he served in the cruiser HMS *Norfolk* at the dispatch of Germany's new battleship the *Bismarck* in May 1941, and was slightly deaf ever after. Later he was Watchkeeping Officer in *HMS London*, before joining the coastal forces under Dover Command.

Raleigh then attended Greenwich Staff College and became the Deputy Staff Officer to the Commander-in-Chief Portsmouth, helping to plan the Normandy landings. At the end of the war, despite being a naval person, he found himself stationed in Austria as part of the Allied Commission, where he saw someting of the forced repatriation of the unfortunate Cossacks.

In his wry offhand style he commented to a friend, "The naval section of the Allied Commission for Austria was then at Klagenfurt, and the Cossack horsemen trooping disconsolately round the villages were a familiar part of the landscape. They seemed to diminish in number each time they came round, like Ali Baba's thieves in a third-rate provincial panto."

Raleigh: explaining the French

On his release Raleigh spent three years in the City as an investment statistician with a firm of stockbrokers and joined the BBC World Service News Department in 1949. Six years later he transferred to the domestic News Division as a Foreign Duty Editor. From 1955 to 1959 he supervised the radio dispatches of BBC foreign correspondents, especially those stationed in Europe. He also began to appear in television from Alexandra Palace. In those pre-satellite days he regularly presented important foreign developments with no visual aids other than maps and still photographs.

In 1957 he covered the royal visits to Denmark, France and Holland, and two years later he became a foreign correspondent himself, in the first instance working in Paris under Thomas Cadett. At the time of the Soviet invasion of Hungary in November 1956 foreign correspondents in Budapest were unable to get their stories out. Refugees were streaming over the frontier bringing the news with them. Raleigh was sent to Vienna to meet them and report their experiences in a memorable dispatch reproduced in the book *From Our Own Correspondent* (1980).

While Raleigh was based in Paris he was sent many times to cover the civil war in Algeria. He was calm and intrepid under fire, and gained the respect of other foreign correspondents there, who elected him chairman of the Foreign Press Association in Algiers. He succeeded Cadett as the chief correspondent in 1963.

This was a time when British correspondents in Paris tended to pander to popular prejudices about France, and particularly about President de Gaulle's insistent references to the "grandeur" of his country. Raleigh saw, in a way that others did not, that French successes were due to inherent qualities of value, not, as it were, to flukes achieved almost in spite of themselves. In his dispatches he sought to understand, and to explain, what the French felt and did about a given situation, and why that differed from what the British felt, and thought the French should do. He did not, like so many, stereotype the French, but aimed at penetration of the French state of mind. He spoke excellent French, and was a man of great integrity. He would never go as a tourist to a dictatorship such as Greece under the Colonels or Portugal under Salazar.

Raleigh had married Rosalind Scott, a granddaughter of C.P. Scott of the (*Manchester*) *Guardian*, and was anxious that their two sons should enjoy an English education. In 1966 he gave up his journalistic work and spent the next 11 years in television programme planning. The BBC television service greatly appreciated his quiet confident leadership. He retired, two years prematurely, on his 58th birthday, and took his family to live in Nether Compton in Dorset. He endured a long period of cancer of the spine with typical courage.

Leonard Miall

Malcolm Gordon Peter Raleigh, foreign correspondent and television executive: born Barnstaple, Devon 26 May 1919; RNVR 1940-46; investment statistician 1946-49; sub-editor, BBC External News Department 1949-55, Foreign Duty Editor, Home News 1955-59, foreign correspondent 1959-63, Paris Correspondent 1963-66, television planning manager 1966-72, Head, Television Programme Planning Group 1972-77; married 1942 Rosalind Scott (two sons); died Nether Compton, Dorset 20 July 1996.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

HOLLAND: Very suddenly in the Sevenoaks Archery Fields, on 13/7/96, Barry Lewis Holland of Weald, Sevenoaks, aged 59. He leaves Angela, Ben, Sophie, Joe and Josh, who together with his many friends and colleagues will mark his passing and celebrate his life at 2pm on Thursday 25 July at St George's Church, Weald. Donations if wished to the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Enquiries to W. Hodges, 89 St John's Hill, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3PE. Telephone 01732-454457.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh give a garden party at Buckingham Palace. **The Duke of Edinburgh** visits the Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Neasden, London NW10, and as Master, Trinity House, attends a dinner at Trinity House, Tower Hill, London EC3. **Prince Edward**, Chairman, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Pegasus Project, attends the project's annual lunch at Skinners' Hall, London EC4. **Princess Margaret**, Patron, the Zebra Trust and Zebra Housing Association, opens the redesigned garden at Impala House, Chalcot Square, London NW1.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at **Horse Guards**, 11am; Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at **Buckingham Palace**, 11.30am, band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

Birthdays

Sir Nicholas Barrington, former High Commissioner to Pakistan, 62; Miss Gloria DeHaven, actress, 72; Sir Alastair Down, former chairman, Burmah Oil, 82; Mr David Essex, entertainer, 49; Mr Michael Foot, former MP, 83; Mr Graham Gooch, cricketer, 43; Mr Alastair Graham, former Headmaster, Mill Hill School, 64; The Rev Mrs Betsy Haworth, deacon and non-stipendiary minister, 72; Sir Harry Hookway, former Pro-Chancellor, Loughborough University, 75; Mrs Elspeth Huxley, author, 89; Sir Charles Kerruish, President of Tynwald, Isle of Man, 79; Air Vice-Marshal George Lamb, former rugby referee, 83; Mr David Lawman, former chairman, Prestige Group, 75; Mr Clive Rice, cricketer, 47; Sir Richard Rogers, architect, 63; Professor Andrew Rutherford, former Warden, Goldsmiths' College, 67; Mr Richard Searby QC, deputy chairman, Times Newspapers Holdings, 65; Sir John Stokes, former MP, 79; Mr Peter Twiss, former test pilot, 75.

Anniversaries

Births: Francesco Sforza, soldier, 1401; Antonio Maria Gasparo Sacchini, opera composer, 1734; Coventry Kersey Dighton Patmore, poet, 1823; Richard Hol, composer and organist, 1825; Alan Francis Brooke, first Viscount Alanbrooke, Field Marshal, 1883; Salvador de Madariaga y Rojo, writer and diplomat, 1886; Sir Arthur Whitten Brown, aviator, 1886; Raymond Thornton Chandler, novelist, 1888; Ras Tafari Makonnen, Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia, 1892; Michael Wilding, actor, 1912. **Deaths:** Richard Gibson, miniature-painter, 1690; Domenico Scarlatti, composer and harpsichordist, 1757; Isaac Merritt Singer, sewing machine inventor, 1875; Ulysses Simpson Grant, general and 18th US President, 1885; Sir John Simon, public health pioneer, 1904; Sir William Ramsay, chemist, 1916; James Maxton, politician, 1946; David Wark Griffith, film director, 1948; Robert Joseph Flaherty, documentary film maker, 1951; Henri-Philippe Pétain, soldier and Vichy leader, 1951; Edward Montgomery Clift, film actor, 1966; Eddie Rickenbacker (Edward Vernon Rickenbacher), First World War fighter pilot, 1973; Rosemary Sutcliff, historical novelist, 1992. **On this day:** the Battle of Shrewsbury was fought by the Percys against King Henry IV, 1403; Charles Stuart, the Young Pretender, landed at Eriskay Island in the Hebrides, 1745; Alexandra Park, Muswell Hill, north London, opened 1863; the Empress Eugénie was appointed as Regent of France by Emperor Napoleon III, 1870; John Boyd Dunlop applied to patent a pneumatic tyre, 1888; in London, the "blitz" began with an all-night air raid, 1940; King Farouk of Egypt was deposed by General Neguib, 1952; the Greek military junta resigned, 1974; the Duke of York married Sarah Ferguson, 1986. **Today** is the Feast Day of St Anne or Susanna, St Apollinaris of Ravenna, St Bridget of Sweden, St John Cassian, St Liborius, St Romula and her Companions, and The Three Wise Men.

Lectures

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "Degas (iv): Degas Landscapes", 1pm.

Victoria and Albert Museum: Imogen Stewart, "Aesthetic Dress", 2.30pm.

Tate Gallery: Sarah Greenberg, "London Bridges: linking time and space", 1pm.

National Portrait Gallery: John Cooper, "Portraits of Queen Anne and her Contemporaries", 1.10pm.

British Museum: Rowena Loverance, "Byzantine Icons", 1.15pm.

Receptions

International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists

Sir Sigmund Sternberg, Patron, International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, hosted a reception yesterday evening at the Reform Club, London SW1, in honour of Lord Woolf on his appointment as Master of the Rolls, and to inaugurate the 1997 World Congress of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists.

Dinners

Corporation of London

Sir Brian Jenkins, Lord Mayor Locum Tenens, was host of a dinner yesterday evening at Guildhall, London EC2, to mark the occasion of 1996 British Insurance Law Association London Colloquium. Sir Brian Jenkins and Sir Alexander Graham, President of the British Insurance Law Association, were the speakers.

British Academy

The following have been elected Fellows of the British Academy:

Professor J.D. Adey; Dr J. Bergin; Dr J.N. Hunterfield; Professor J. Carey; Professor N.L.D. Cartwright; Dr A.D. Cliff; Professor J.F. Dunn; Professor R.H. Finnegan; Dr R. Foot; Professor H. Goldstein; Dr M.D. Goodman; Dr I.R. Hodder; Professor C.C. Hood; Professor A.G. Hopkins; Dr J.R.L. Maddicott; Professor W.D. Marslen-Wilson; Lord Mustill; Professor J.L. Nelson; Professor R.J. Pinker; Dr C.A.J. Prendergast; Dr A. Pyman; Professor N.G. Round; Professor P. Sims-Williams; Professor R. Sugden; Professor J. Sutton; Professor M.W. Thomas; Dr D.J. Thompson; Professor J.C. Wells; Dr K.E. Wrightson; Dr J. Wymer.

Council inspector liable for wrong advice

LAW REPORT

23 July 1996

Welton v North Cornwall District Council; Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Rose, Lord Justice Ward, Lord Justice Judge) 17 July 1996

An environmental health officer who, when inspecting a guest-house on behalf of the local authority, forced its owners to incur needless expenditure on works of building and refurbishment by threatening otherwise to close the premises down was under a duty of care to the owners for the breach of which the authority, as his employer, was liable in damages.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by North Cornwall District Council against the decision of Judge Anthony Thompson QC, sitting in Truro County Court on 26 January 1995, awarding the plaintiffs, Victoria Florence Welton and David John Welton, damages of £39,522 in respect of the negligence of Brian Evans, an environmental health officer employed by the council.

Roderick Denyer QC and Peter Wadsley (Blake Lapthorn, for Stephens & Scown, Truro) for the council; Philip Mott QC and Christopher Kemp (Frank & Caffin, Truro) for the plaintiffs.

Lord Justice Rose said the plaintiffs had been running Archer Farm, Port Isaac, as a guest-house for 15 years when, in October 1990, Mr Evans arrived, unsolicited and unannounced, to conduct the first ever local authority inspection of the premises. The West Country Tourist Board had inspected them several times and had accorded them its highest accolade, three crowns.

Mr Evans had a different view. He set out 13 requirements which were to be met in order to comply with the law, including substantial building works and major alterations to the kitchen (for which there was no need), and threatened to close down the business if these requirements were not met. In consequence, wholly unnecessary expenditure was incurred for which the judge awarded damages.

The plaintiffs' case was that there was a special relationship between Mr Evans and Mrs Welton which gave rise to a duty to take reasonable care in the statements he made as to the extent of the alterations required to comply with the law.

The defendant's case was, first, that an environmental health officer acting on behalf of a local authority exercised a police or quasi-police function and therefore, as a matter of policy, no action should lie. Second, that it was neither fair nor reasonable to impose a duty of care when an environmental health officer was exercising a statutory responsibility in the interest of public health. Third, that the present case was not within the principle established by *Hedley-Byrne & Co Ltd v Heller & Ptrs Ltd* [1963] 2 All ER 575, [1964] AC 465. The particulars of negligence amounted to no more than an allegation that Mr Evans, who was not a lawyer, got the law wrong.

In his Lordship's judgment, the authorities relied on in relation to the police and the CPS were not determinative of the present case because there was no true analogy; but in any case it had been recognised that the principle that no duty was owed in such cases did not apply where, in relation to the particular plaintiff, responsibility had been assumed.

In the light of the analysis of the *Hedley-Byrne* principle by Lord Goff in *Henderson v Merrett* [1995] 2 AC 145 at 180, and in *Spring v Guardian Assurance* [1995] 2 AC 296 at 318, the judge's conclusion that the relationship between Mr Evans and Mrs Welton gave rise to a duty of care within the ambit of that principle was unassailable. His unchallenged findings of fact included reliance by the plaintiffs on Mr Evans and knowledge of such reliance on Mr Evans's part. Accordingly there was an assumption of responsibility by Mr Evans and hence a duty of care owed by him.

The remaining question was whether a relationship derived from the exercise of statutory powers and duties was excluded from the ambit of a *Hedley-Byrne* principle. There were different categories of conduct to which the existence of the defendant's statutory enforcement duties might give rise, but in this case it had involved the imposition by Mr Evans, outwith the legislation, of detailed requirements enforced by threat of closure and close supervision.

In his Lordship's judgment, the existence of the defendant's statutory powers and duties afforded no reason why it should not be liable at common law for conduct by its servant of this type, which was otherwise well within the *Hedley-Byrne* principle.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

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Costain brought back from the brink

Stormy meeting of shareholders agrees rescue plan by big majority

TOM STEVENSON
City Editor

Costain stepped back from the abyss of receivership yesterday after a stormy shareholders' meeting approved a planned rescue of the struggling construction and engineering group. An overwhelming majority of shareholders voted in favour as Raymood International, one of Costain's two biggest shareholders, overcame its reservations about the deal and gave the package its approval.

After the vote, the suspension on trading in Costain's shares was lifted and they jumped 10p to 49p in relief that the company had fended off the threat of receivership, before settling to close at 46p.

The extraordinary meeting to pass two resolutions relating to the financial restructuring proposals was described as "stormy and fractious" by sbareholders who had been body-searched as they entered a heavily policed QEII conference centre in Westminster. Seeking to minimise had publicity Costain banned noo-shareholders, including the press, from attending the meeting.

From the outset, the meeting was characterised by ill-feeling and secrecy. A small group of anti-road protesters outside the hall was forcibly moved on by a police presence that far outnumbered them. Armed police were positioned on the roof of the centre and protesters were constantly recorded on video cameras.

Costain is involved in the building of the controversial Newhury by-pass and the Cardiff Bay Barrage and is considered by campaigners to have a poor environmental record.

The meeting had been called to rubber-stamp a proposed rescue that will see Intria, a Malaysian construction company, underwrite a three-for-one rights issue to raise £73m and take up to a 40 per cent stake in Costain. Alan Lovell, Costain's chief executive who had faced calls in recent days to resign, said he was already discussing shared contracts with Intria.

The deal had been opposed by Costain's two largest shareholders, Kharafi, a Kuwaiti construction business, and Raymond International, from Saudi Arabia, both of which hold 19 per ceot each of Costain's shares. The proposals could see their holdings slip to as little as 5 per cent.

To be approved, the rescue needed a simple majority of votes to he cast in favour. In the event, 76.5 per cent of an 83 per cent turnout were in favour of the package, which was presented by Costain's board as the only plan available for the company's survival.

Alan Lovell said: "We can look forward to continuing to develop our core engineering and construction businesses in the UK and around the world, in particular with our new and existing shareholders in the Middle and Far East, our two main overseas markets."

One shareholder who attended the meeting said Costain's directors attempted to move straight to a vote on the rescue resolutions but were forced by heckling shareholders to field questions, mainly from private shareholders who were angry at the company's unwillingness to furnish them with adequate information to vote oo the proposals.

Shareholders also questioned salaries being paid to Costain's directors despite the poor performance of the company since, in keeping with many of its industry peers, it was brought to its knees by the recession. "You are the most incompetent directors ever," a shareholder said. "Why are you lining your pockets with mooey when we haven't got a dividend?"

Mr Lovell was paid a basic salary of £180,000 in 1995, while Sir Christopher Benson, chairman, was paid £100,000. The company hasn't paid a dividend since 1992.

Kharafi last week argued for a reprieve of up to three months from Costain's bankers to enable counter-proposals to be drawn up. It said it would consider investing further in the company. Yesterday, shareholders repeatedly called on a representative of the Kuwaiti group to put forward an alternative proposal. None was forthcoming.

Sir Christopher Benson reiterated the company's plea for shareholders to support the plan as the only viable alternative. "If you vote against it there will not be a Costain and you will not be shareholders," he said.

Battered by poor investment in property and US mining assets in the late 1980s, and by the wafer-thin margins on contracting work, Costain's shares have slumped more than 90 per cent since they peaked in 1987.

Comment, page 19

Hard hats on: Costain shareholders voiced their concerns both inside and outside yesterday's egm at the QEII Centre in central London

Subdued Germany likely to cut rates

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

The Bundesbank is expected to cut its key money market interest rate, perhaps as early as Thursday, after new figures showing inflation and growth in Germany remain subdued.

Prices charged at the factory gate fell by 0.2 per cent last month, while their year-on-year rate of decline picked up to 0.8 per cent. Cost of living figures due later this week are expected to show inflation running at just over 1 per cent.

The Ecooomics Ministry said yesterday that Europe's biggest economy expanded by more in the second quarter of this year than it shrank in the first quarter. But a bounce in construction, laid low by bad weather in the first three months of the year, explained most of the apparent recovery.

The statement warned that the economy would not grow fast enough to reduce unemployment from its oear-record level. "The pace of recovery in the foreseeable short term is still too low to stimulate demand for labour." However, it insisted that the economic climate was improving, with an increase in planned investment.

Many economists are much more sceptical about the chances of a solid improvement in the second half of this year. Holger Fahrinkrug, at investment bank UBS in Frankfurt, said: "There is absolutely no evidence of the sustainability of the recovery."

Unexpectedly weak business confidence in June, reported last week by the IFO research institute, dented analysts' optimism about the economy's prospects. IFO's retail survey, released yesterday, predicted that retailers would slash investment due to stagnating sales. Arno Städtler, the author's report, said: "There bas never been such a long downturn in retailing."

The weak survey results have called into question whether stronger export orders are feeding through to the domestic economy. "There have been signs of a more meaningful recovery in export orders, but the rise in the mark has probably hit that on the head," said Julian Jessop, an economist at Nikko Securities. The mark has climbed by just over 1 per cent in trade-weighted terms since the end of May.

Comment, page 19

High water bills lead to legal fray

CHRIS GODSMARK
Business Correspondent

Parkland, one of Yorkshire's biggest textile producers, yesterday said it was facing legal action by Yorkshire Water in an industry-wide dispute over water charges.

The *Independent* has also learned that Parkland, which makes wool fabrics for large retailers including Marks and Spencer, will locate a new factory in Nottinghamshire rather than Yorkshire, because it can obtain a better deal on water charges there.

The company is refusing to pay a 25 per cent increase in its water bill imposed last October. A seven-day deadline to pay up or face a writ expired last week.

"We've been trying to get an appointment with Brandon Gough, Yorkshire's new chairman, but they say they're still trying to sort out an appointment," said Bryan Lodder, chief executive of Parkland Group. "You'd think courtesy alone would suggest they should wait until that meeting before they take things further. It's a matter of principle."

Yorkshire Water announced phased increases in the "reception charge" for waste water products from textile firms, from 1995 to 1999. Parkland's bill for this year went up by 25 per cent to £100,000, on top of a 38 per cent rise lastyear. Consumers' bills in the region increased by just 5.6 per cent.

Textile firms are among the heaviest users of water, large quantities of which are needed for finishing and dyeing processes. Yorkshire has argued that historical charges levied on the industry for effluent did not reflect the true cost of providing the service.

Some producers have agreed to pay this year's increase but have been granted further consultation on planned rises by Yorkshire's new management. In the case of Parkland, which has 700 employees in Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield and Oldham, plans are for charges to increase by another 58 per cent over the next three years.

Ofwat was consulted about the price-hike, but said Yorkshire did not require formal permission to levy the increase. A spokesman for Yorkshire water said last night: "We will take any steps necessary to recover the outstanding debt. Out of 2,400 companies affected by the new charge, only three have so far refused to pay."

Parkland blames the attitude of Yorkshire Water for its decision to build the £16m yarn dyeing factory in north Nottinghamshire – where it will be a customer of Severn Trent. The plant, initially employing 100 people but with a workforce planned to increase to 400, is under construction on a greeofield site and is due to open next January. It will make coloured yarns for industrial applications such as car seat fabrics.

Mr Lodder said the company had also considered a similar site in Yorkshire, but Severn Trent's connection charges were much cheaper.

"Severn Trent were extremely helpful, whereas Yorkshire Water couldn't sort anything out for at least a year. They appear to have decided that industry does not need encouragement to remain in Yorkshire. It reflects a general apathy towards manufacturing," said Mr Lodder.

Oftel clears BT of dirty tricks

Don Cruickshank: Accepted explanation given by BT

MATHEW HORSMAN and CHRIS GODSMARK

BT was largely exonerated yesterday from allegations that it had improperly canvassed ex-directory cable customers, in a report issued by the telecoms watchdog Oftel.

But the regulator called on the company to improve its standards in the future, saying that any campaign to win back customers "should meet the highest standards of fairness and propriety". A spokesman from BT said: "We're clearly delighted that Oftel has vindicated BT. There was no dirty-tricks campaign. Oftel has confirmed that it was an honest mistake made through a computer error."

The Cable Communications Association was last night considering whether to take additional action. Its chief executive, Bob Frost, said that the main issue – whether ex-directory cable customers had been addressed by name in BT's "win back" campaign – had not been resolved.

In a statement accompanying the report, Oftel director-general Don Cruickshank said be accepted BT's explanation relating to the computer glitch.BT claimed that in a list of phone numbers generated by an outside supplier, a coding error had led to some digits being changed. Of these, some were ex-directory accounts.

Mr Cruickshank said that the claim of some customers to have been marketed by their own names lay with a lack of adequate scripting, training and monitoring, which had given cable customers an incorrect impression. He also warned that "immediate enforcement" would follow any recurrence of the episode. BT last night said it had reviewed its procedures "to ensure that everyone maintains the proper standards".

The cable industry gave a muted response to the Oftel report. Telewest Communications, the industry leader, said: "Whether by accident or intent, we believe BT's actions were anti-competitive and unnecessary."A spokesman added: "BT should now apologise to the customers concerned and to the cable companies affected."

Bell Cablemedia, some of whose customers had also been contacted by BT marketers in recent months, said: "We look forward to BT's confirmation ... of the new procedures it now intends to set up in order to avoid a repeat of such a situation." BCM said the episode confirmed that Oftel was right to request additional powers to enforce open competition in the telecoms industry.

BT's board meets today to discuss whether to accept Oftel's plans to take on the new powers of enforcement . The company is fighting the proposals, arguing that they should include a formal right of appeal.

Tesco stays hand on French bid

NIGEL COPE

Tesco had yet to declare its hand in the £2.5bn bid for Docks de France supermarkets group last night even though the French company's shares were suspended on the Paris bourse yesterday pending an announcement.

Docks de France is on the receiving end of an offer from rival hypermarket group Auchan and other bidders have only until today to declare their hand. With Tesco silent yesterday it is now believed that the UK supermarket group has decided not to accept the French group's plea for a white knight intervention.

Instead, Docks de France is set to accept a slightly higher offer from Auchan. The offer, which has not yet been disclosed, is thought to be in the region of 5-10 per cent higher than the previous bid, valuing Docks de France at up to £2.75bn.

It is understood Tesco felt the deal, which would have involved a huge and dilutive rights issue, would have been too high a price to pay. At that valuation, Tesco could not see how the deal would enhance shareholder valne. Though Tesco is keen to expand in Europe and did hold talks with Docks de France it will now press ahead with the expansion of its Catteau business in France which it acquired in 1992.

Tesco's decision is likely to be greeted with relief in the City. Tesco's shares have fallen by almost 9 per ceot since rumours of its interest in Docks de France began to circulate. They closed 7p lower at 27p yesterday.

One analyst said that Tesco's decision to walk away from the French deal would make the shares a strong buy. Bill Myers of Williams de Broe said it would leave Tesco free to concentrate on the home market where it is continuing to win share from Sainsbury's.

WH Smith launches loyalty card scheme

NIGEL COPE

W H Smith is testing two loyalty card schemes in its core high-street chain in an attempt to boost flagging sales and inject more life into the ailing business. The two versions on trial are the W H Smith Clubcard and the Clubcard for Children, thought to be the first card aimed at the under 12s.

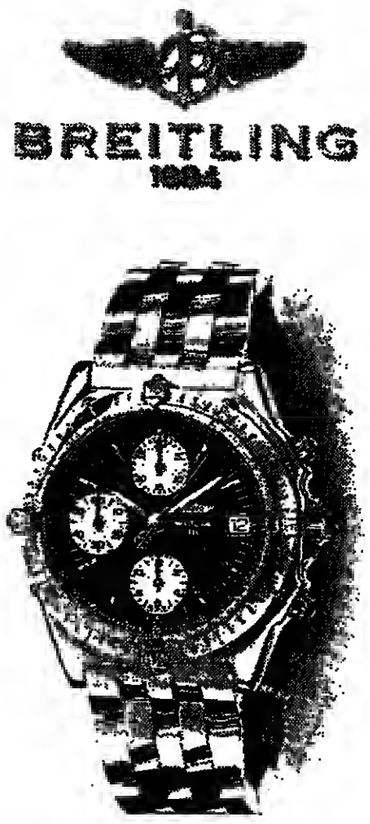
Both schemes enable shoppers to earn 10 points for every £1 spent which can then be redeemed against purchases in W H Smith stores. The discount is equivalent to 2 per cent, roughly double the rate offered by most supermarket loyalty schemes.

The system is being piloted in 19 stores, and the company is now actively targeting the family shopper. ClubCard for Children is available to youngsters up to 11 years, whose parents also sign up to the scheme.

W H Smith stores are visited by 7.5 million customers a week but have been hit by a combination of low margins, cluttered stores and fierce competition from the supermarket groups. The 19 stores participating in the trial also have Discovery Zones, which give better offers to children.

W H Smith is the latest in a long line of retailers to launch loyalty cards, or tests, following in the trail of all the big supermarkets and the chemist, Boots. But the company faces problems differentiating its card from those of rivals. It has adopted the same name for the cards as Tesco's scheme, which has 8.5 million members.

City analysts will also fear that the card will hit WH Smith's already pressured margins.



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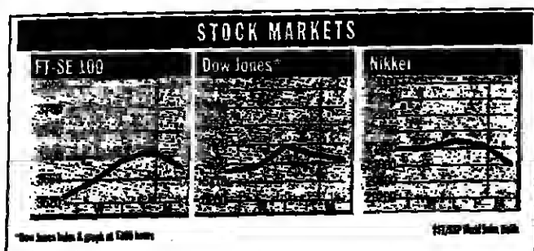
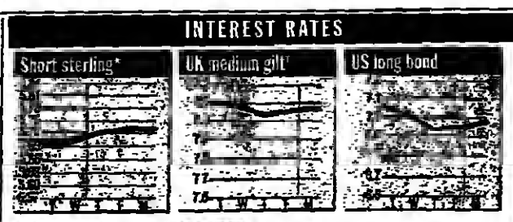


Indices

Index	Close	Day's change	Change(%)	1996 High	1996 Low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	3681.30	-29.20	-0.8	3857.10	3632.30	4.11
FTSE 250	4231.00	-19.00	-0.4	4568.60	4015.30	3.56
FTSE 350	1847.60	-13.20	-0.7	1945.40	1816.60	3.99
FT Small Cap	2104.18	-2.47	-0.1	2244.36	1954.06	3.13
FT All Share	1829.15	-12.30	-0.7	1924.17	1791.95	3.93
New York *	5405.00	-21.82	-0.4	5778.00	5032.94	2.30
Tokyo	21005.53	-470.66	-2.2	22666.80	19734.70	0.74†
Hong Kong	10798.29	-47.01	-0.4	11594.99	10204.87	3.41†
Frankfurt	2482.40	-37.79	-1.5	2583.49	2253.36	1.85†

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES



Money Market Rates / Bond Yields *

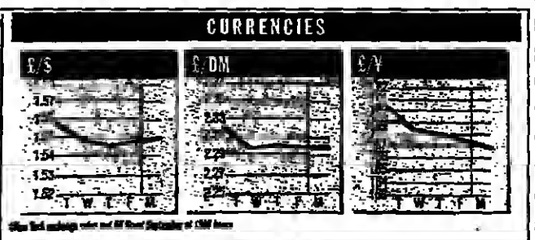
Index	1 Month	1 Year	Medium Bond (%)	Year Ago	Long Bond	(%) Year Ago
UK	5.69	6.00	7.90	8.28	8.02	8.34
US	5.28	5.91	6.76	6.45	6.97	6.88
Japan	0.47	1.19	3.34	2.88	-	-
Germany	3.31	3.34	6.39	6.97	6.97	-

*Benchmark Indices

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Change (p)	Change%	Falls	Price (p)	Change (p)	% Change
Costain	115	5	4.5	Chiroscience Group	329	25	7.1
British Gas	190.5	4.5	2.4	Blenheim Group	405	19	4.5
PowerScreen Intl	490	10	2.1	Tig	152.5	5.5	3.5

CURRENCIES



Pound

	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
$ (London)	1.5499	+0.25c	1.5973
$ (N York)‡	1.5495	+0.15c	1.5945
DM (London)	2.3035	+0.03pf	2.2102
¥ (London)	166.919	-¥0.559	139.764
£ Index	84.7	unch	83.5

Dollar

	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
£ (London)	0.6452	-0.10	0.6261
£ (N York)‡	0.6454	-0.06	0.6270
DM (London)	1.4863	-0.22pf	1.3837
¥ (London)	107.700	-¥0.535	87.500
$ Index	95.9	-0.3	90.2

OTHER INDICATORS

	Yesterday	Day's chg	Year Ago
Oil Brent $	18.99	-0.23	15.53
Gold $	384.35	+0.50	386.40
Gold £	248.38	-0.07	241.93

	Index	Latest	Yr Ago	Next Figs
RPI	153.0	+2.1pc	149.8	15 Aug
GDP	130.3	+1pc	125.2	26 July
Base Rates	—	5.75pc	5.75	—

business

Only three bidders still in Videotron auction

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Only three serious bidders remain in the frame for a £400m controlling stake in Videotron, a leading cable operator in the UK, sources close to the auction said yesterday. They are UK cable operator International CableTel, Deutsche Telekom, the giant German telecoms operator, and Bell Cablemedia, which already holds a 26 per cent stake in Videotron.

Cable & Wireless, the telecoms company that owns Mercury Communications, remains on the sidelines, the sources said, and could return to the fray depending on the outcome of negotiations. KPN, the Dutch telecoms company, is believed to have withdrawn.

It is also understood that lawyers for Bell Cablemedia have conceded the company does not have a pre-emptive right over the 56 per cent stake in Videotron Holdings put up for sale by Montreal-based Videotron, the Canadian cable giant. Therefore, the company's chances of winning the auction are put at just one in four, a senior Videotron source said.

Industry sources add that if Bell Cablemedia does not buy the stake, doubts will grow about this company's commitment to the UK market. The sale, which is still several weeks from completion, is a further move toward consolidation in the UK cable industry, following the purchase by General Cable of a minority interest in Yorkshire Cable earlier this year and the merger between market leader, Telewest Communications, and SBC CableComms last year.

Analysts had been expecting further moves in the business, which recently returned to market favour following several months of bad publicity.

Videotron Canada, which is looking to shift its attention to the newly liberalised US market, is demanding cash only – a position that favours the deep pockets of Deutsche Telekom, which has a stake in the domestic cable market, but no investment as yet in Britain.

All three finalists, however, believe Videotron is asking too much. "We think the valuation is far too high, there is still a lot of negotiation to come," said a source at one leading bidder.

The attractions of the Videotron franchises, which range from the City to the Thames Valley, are obvious, analysts say, but the company has been undermanaged and dogged by customer complaints. Further, it still has most of its network to build, as part of the £1tbn UK cable investment.

Mr Entertainment: Michael Green says Cinema Media will immediately boost earnings

Carlton makes £58m move into cinema advertising

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Carlton Communications, Michael Green's media company, is paying £58.5m for Cinema Media, the largest seller of cinema advertising space in the UK, confirming its strategy of investing in what Mr Green calls "screen-based entertainment".

The acquisition, which gives Carlton contracts with leading UK cinema exhibitors, including Virgin, ABC, National Amusements, Rank and UCI, will be paid for in cash.

Cinema Media, bought from Rank by its managers in 1992, will be rebranded as a Carlton company.

It had pre-tax profits last year of £7m, on sales of £34.6m, but Carlton said yesterday current trading was "significantly ahead" of last year.

The company controls more than 80 per cent of the UK market for in-cinema advertising, and 100 per cent of Ireland. It also supplies advertising for home videos, a growing market.

Carlton, through its Technicolour division, is a leading maker of pre-recorded video cassettes and the big film processor. It is also the franchise holder for London ITV in the week and for Central.

Following a brief hand-over period, Cinema Media's chief executive, Keith Shepherd, and its finance director, Chris Hicks, are to leave the company. Mr Shepherd will be replaced by Adam Poulter, now marketing director of TDI, the transport advertising company.

The division will be folded into Carlton UK sales, which handles airtime for Central Television, Carlton and several cable television channels, including Carlton-Select.

Cut-price Somerfield float finds buyers

NIGEL COPE

Stockbrokers to Somerfield's cut-price flotation said yesterday that initial orders from City institutions were encouraging, though some analysts and fund managers were only giving the new issue a 50-50 chance of success.

NatWest Securities, broker to the £480m float, said it had received "quite a few" orders by close of business yesterday, though a number of institutions were still "biding their time". NatWest said that last week's reduction in the price from the original 180p-190p range down to 160p had tempted several investors to take a second look.

Of the institutions seen, NatWest claims that more than half had expressed interest while other smaller funds were also getting involved. Some US institutions have expressed interest even though they were not targeted in the company's presentations. It is understood that some of the largest City fund managers have yet to meet Somerfield's management, though meetings are scheduled for the next two days. One said: "We often prefer to see companies at a late stage as there is usually more information around."

NatWest is confident the retail offer, which closes tomorrow, will be over-subscribed.

The City is split on Somerfield's chances of success. Some feel the price cut has made the float more attractive; others believe the former Gateway supermarkets business still has fundamental problems.

Ofgas delays decision on price capping

CHRIS GODSMARK
Business Correspondent

The gas industry regulator, Ofgas, yesterday said it was to delay publishing the final version of its controversial price cap formula for the British Gas pipeline business TransCo until mid-August, as the war of words between the two sides intensified.

The proposals were expected to be revealed this week, but speculation that Ofgas was preparing a tactical retreat helped to boost the British Gas share price yesterday.

Ofgas said it needed more time to consider additional information on TransCo's capital expenditure which it had only received a fortnight ago. The situation has been further complicated because Clare Spottiswoode, the director general of gas supply, goes on holiday for two weeks from Friday.

An Ofgas spokesman said: "It's something Clare needs to deal with personally and she's not going to be here for a while. Otherwise the delay would have been shorter."

British Gas has described the current proposals, which are the subject of industry-wide consultation, as "the biggest smash and grab raid in history." They would cut TransCo's revenues by 22-28 per cent from next April, with cuts of inflation minus 5 per cent until 2002.

Last night British Gas refused to accept the Ofgas explanation for the delay. The company's deputy chairman, Philip Rogerson, said: "The information has been with them since March. It's very regrettable that we now have a three-week delay which increases uncertainty for our shareholders."

Philip Rogerson: 'The delay increases uncertainty'

The latest dispute centres on figures for TransCo's operating costs for the 12 months to the end of 1995. British Gas had originally forecast operating expenditure of £1.35bn, but says it found during the preparation of accounts that the true figure was £1.45bn. The difference could significantly affect the amount of costs Ofgas allows when drawing up its price formula.

Privately, however, Ofgas believes British Gas is "playing games". Officials insist they made several requests earlier this year for TransCo's management accounts which they needed to reconcile with the data provided in the original forecasts. This detail did not arrive until a fortnight ago and additional information from British Gas was still being delivered as late as last night.

Sighs of relief as Tesco walks away from the big one

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Tesco shareholders will breathe a huge sigh of relief if, as expected, the company decides not to intervene in the £2.5bn bid for Docks de France, the French supermarket group.

Tesco's shares have taken a thorough beating in the past two weeks since it emerged that Sir Ian MacLaurin was considering mounting a rescue bid for the company to save it from the clutches of the French hypermarket group, Auchan.

Tesco shares were trading at more than 300p at the beginning of this month but have since shed around 9 per cent of their value as the City became nervous that Tesco might wade in with a mega-bid and the mother-of-all rights issues to fund it. They fell another 7p in a declining market to 276p yesterday.

With Docks de France now likely to accept an enhanced offer from Auchan, Tesco has walked away from the big one even though it admits that it met Docks in France and considered making a move. It would be reasonable to now expect a bounce in Tesco shares as institutions pile back in.

The reasons for Tesco's decision and relief in the City are plain enough. It would have proved an expensive deal and saddled Tesco with high gearing for the next 18 months. Keen as the company is to expand in Europe it just couldn't make the deal make financial sense.

Another key reason is that a Tesco foray into France would have let Sainsbury off the hook at home. Tesco is winning the battle on like-for-like sales increases and has been on a marketing roll for some time with the most successful loyalty card in the sector.

With Iceland melting after a profits warning and Somerfield's float struggling to get off the ground even after a price cut, Tesco's UK position looks stronger than ever. Why risk letting that dominance slip by pouring resources into a second front?

So normal service has been resumed, then. Tesco will continue to concentrate on the UK while pushing its French business ahead through Catteau which it acquired in 1992.

Well, not quite. Tesco has made it clear that it would like to expand its European interests and France is top of the list. Its other European deals in Hungary and Poland are a mere sideshow compared with its business in France which recorded sales of £550m last year and profits of £10.5m.

Some kind of move is likely sooner or later and Tesco's interest in Docks de France may unsettle some investors as it is clear that a further French foray will come in time. With analysts sticking to their profit forecasts of £740m for the current year, Tesco's shares are on a forward rating of just 12. Hold.

Lonrho takes unfair beating

Conglomerates have been on a hiding to nothing recently. The market dislikes diversified groups and has marked the shares of companies such as BTR, Hanson and Tomkins down accordingly.

If that is the case, you might have thought, breaking up would be the way to win investors' hearts. Not a bit of it – as Hanson, and now Lonrho, have found, news of a demerger has tended to put further pressure on the share price. Lonrho has more reason than most to feel hard done by. Dieter Bock has done a good job over the past three years in rescuing the eccentric rag-bag of unrelated businesses Tiny Rowland put together.

His efforts have been rewarded with steady outperformance in the share price but since last month's announcement that the company was pressing ahead with plans to spin off its hotels and African trading businesses from its core mining operations, the shares have fallen 16p to yesterday's 169p, underperforming the rest of the market in exactly the same way that Hanson did after it detailed its own four-way split.

The comparison is harsh on Lonrho, because in the case of Hanson details of the demerger set alarm bells ringing on the group's dividend paying potential.

For a yield stock like Hanson that was disastrous for the shares, highlighting as it did the fact that, contrary to market wisdom, the company might actually be worth more than its constituent parts. In Lonrho's case, the reverse would appear to be true.

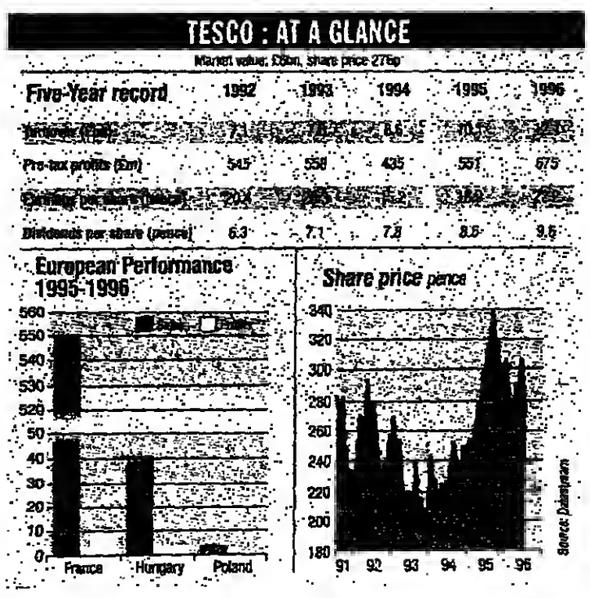
Charles Kernot, an analyst at Paribas Capital Markets, has run a model of Lonrho that suggests a combined value of its three main divisions of approaching 235p a share, even assuming a discount for the mining arm to account for the uncertainty surrounding the involvement of Anglo American in what will, after the split, be the continuing Lonrho business.

Even after that discount, Kernot believes the mining side could be worth 115p a share. In addition the hotels arm, expected to be sold off in an offer of shares in September might be worth an additional 78p and the African trading interests, which Dieter Bock plans to head up, chip in a further 80p.

A total valuation of 273p, or 235p net of central debt.

The fact that the shares have actually fallen since the demerger announcement suggests that the market simply does not believe that it will take place as promised, or that the company will be unable to achieve the sort of prices Mr Kernot has detailed in an increasingly nervous market.

In the light of recent problems with the new issues market, some caution would seem appropriate, but the potential upside seems adequate compensation and the shares are good value.



Thorn EMI worth holding

There was nothing particularly new in Thorn EMI's first-quarter results yesterday, which showed a respectable 13 per cent rise in pre-exceptional profits to £68m despite some softness in the music side. The other important aspect of yesterday's announcement was further details of the proposed demerger of the company into its constituent parts, but as Sir Colin Southgate drily commented that was simply 140 pages to tell shareholders they would be getting two shares instead of one.

EMI Music benefited from new releases from George Michael and Tina Turner, with sales and operating profits up 4.7 per cent and 17.4 per cent respectively in local currency terms. Foreign exchange movements cut that back a bit but the division still looks an attractive morsel to potential bidders despite Sir Colin's protestations yesterday that he hadn't talked to any possible buyers for months.

Thorn, the rentals side continued to show its paces, with sales up 9 per cent and operating profits 12 per cent better at £41.1m. This unglamorous side of the company looks more and more attractive as time goes by with much steadier income than other retailers and a growing market as PCs expand the white goods universe and rent-to-buy enlarges the target audience.

A possible £30m hit to cover the return of leases transferred to the now collapsed Escom computer retailing business is a nuisance but a one-off irritant. Elsewhere, HMV, which will stay with Thorn on demerger, had a good quarter with sales up almost 18 per cent to £171m.

All good news, then, but from the investment perspective it is hard to believe the revaluation of Thorn EMI has not already taken place. Since the beginning of 1995, the shares have soared from £10 to £16.93 yesterday, down 42p as the market came to the conclusion that there was little still to go for with a price/earnings ratio in the high teens swamping a respectable but dull earnings growth rate of about 12 per cent. High enough on fundamentals but with the prospect of a bid for EMI and Thorn going well the shares are still worth holding.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Aurchett Assoc (I)	- (-)	-0.17m (0.05m)	-1.23p (0.30p)	nil (nil)
CCI Holdings (I)	1.3m (1.2m)	0.12m (0.06m)	10.1p (5.5p)	nil (nil)
Copyright Promotions (F)	5.8m (3.5m)	0.3m (0.48m)	2.46p (3.78p)	1.0p (-)
Ian Business (I)	5.6m (3.6m)	0.39m (-0.05m)	0.98p (0.02p)	0.55p (nil)
Thorn EMI (Q)	1.11bn (1.05bn)	108.8m (63.7m)	16.9p (8.4p)	nil (nil)
Tomorrow's Leisure (F)	9.5m (8.6m)	0.07m (1.4m)	0.04p (2.86p)	nil (nil)

(F) - Final (I) - Interim (9M) - Nine months

Revised Interest Rates For Accounts No Longer Open To New Investors.

Amended Index Linked Account Rates. Effective from 23rd July, 1996.

Index Linked Account	Minimum Investment	Gross*	Gross CAR**	Net†
1st Issue Quarterly	£1,000	5.10%	5.20%	4.08%
2nd Issue Yearly	£1,000	5.10%	–	4.08%
2nd Issue Monthly	£1,000	4.98%	5.10%	3.98%
3rd Issue Yearly	£1,000	5.10%	–	4.08%
3rd Issue Monthly	£1,000	4.98%	5.10%	3.98%
4th Issue Yearly	£1,000	4.60%	–	3.68%
4th Issue Monthly	£1,000	4.51%	4.60%	3.61%

*Without UK income tax deducted. **Annual return if monthly interest payments remain in the account. †Assuming rate of income tax at 20%. Interest will be payable net of the applicable rate of income tax (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers) or gross, subject to the required registration. CAR and net rates are illustrative only and have been rounded to two decimal places. Rates may vary but are correct at the time of going to press. Details of interest rates paid on other accounts are available from any Britannia branch.

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A drink in Singapore? Mine's a pint of Leeson

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

A Hong Kong microbrewery that won fame with a beer named Leeson Lager, after the jailed Barings Singapore trader Nick Leeson, plans to list its shares on Nasdaq in New York.

The South China Brewery has recently applied to the exchange for a listing in order to raise money for expansion. It prefers New York to Hong Kong because of Nasdaq's electronic accessibility, according to the company's managing director David Haines.

South China Brewery was formed in December 1994 with just US$1m in capital. It brews three of its own labels – Crooked Island Lager, India Pale Ale and Dragon's Back. It now wants to set up microbreweries in Thailand, Shanghai, and – wait for it – Singapore. Somehow I don't think the Singapore authorities will be terribly amused at being served up Leeson Lager.

It's 90 degrees on the streets of London and even the Governor of the Bank of England is in shirt sleeves. Eddie George is now holding his meetings outside in a pleasant courtyard of the Bank. Pimms, anyone?

Snipers on the roof, body searches on the way in, 150 policemen, 20 police vans. A top-security trial perhaps? In fact, the security encountered by Costain's shareholders at yesterday's egm in Westminster's QEII centre was truly over the top.

The main "threat", as far as the police were concerned, was the Newbury by-pass protesters, who in the event were outnumbered at least three to one by the police. The peaceful nature of the protest didn't stop the police from hauling various of the hairier protesters away.

The road protesters wanted the Malaysian rescue package voted down and Costain to go into receivership, so that the whole road building project will have to go back to the tendering stage. No wonder they were waving banners saying: "Lovell must go."

In the event chief executive Alan Lovell carried the day and the vote went through. Now they can call off the snipers.

A European women's group is preparing to boycott Nestle's Perrier mineral water next week unless the company withdraws a Belgian advertising campaign which they say is offensive to women.

The billboard adverts, designed by Publicis FCB, show three naked women whose breasts are covered only by Perrier bottle tops, with the curious caption "wonder-hubbles".

Catherine Mackenzie-Smith is the organiser of one of the Lloyd's of London's ginger groups which are threatening to spray writs for fraud around the market. She has quite enough work to do keeping the strangely named Non-North American Names Association on the ball. She found even more on her plate last Friday when she flew back from the US to find her offices in Whitechapel, in London's East End, burgled.

Amongst the stuff that had been nicked was a hard disc drive containing "sensitive information," she says. So who-dunnit?

"I have no idea at all. But its a funny thing that somebody should come to the third floor of this very large building," she says.

The police are continuing with their enquiries. Let's hope the "information" doesn't fall into the wrong hands.

Thirsty work: Nick Leeson's notoriety was confirmed when a lager was named after him

I wonder if those Treasury "kids" that Chancellor Ken Clarke blamed last week for the leaked proposal paper ton privatising the welfare state and selling off gravity) have popped up somewhere else.

The Adam Smith Institute's annual "Economy in Government" competition encourages members of the public to suggest the best way Whitehall should be spending and saving taxpayers' money. This year, one contestant, Dennis Snower, who lists himself as from an economics department in the University of London, suggests: "A bold move to opt out of welfare state services in return for tax reductions."

Sounds exactly like the radical stuff which drew such withering contempt from Ken Clarke. Is someone at the Adam Smith Institute having a tease?

Shareholders give Costain one last chance

COMMENT

'The company may long since have been written off by the financial community, but in the booming construction markets of Asia and the Gulf, the Costain name still punches well above its weight'

Costain has been written off so many times, and received such a torrent of bad press along the way, that yesterday's petulant refusal to allow anyone other than shareholders into its extraordinary meeting smacked of slamming the barn door well after the horse had bolted. In the event the resolution to approve a proposed rescue of the once great construction and engineering group (market value £20m at the recent suspension price) was passed through more or less on the nod, despite an unlikely alliance between environmentalists and small shareholders.

Three-quarters of the 83 per cent of shareholders who bothered to have a view agreed that a heavily diluted shareholding in something was a preferable alternative to a bigger slice of nothing at all, well in excess of the simple majority the company needed.

So Costain has stepped back from the brink yet again, out of the hands of two potential Middle Eastern saviours (Kharafi of Kuwait and Raymond International of Saudi Arabia) and into the willing arms of a new Far Eastern sugar daddy in the form of Intria of Malaysia, which will end up with a 40 per cent stake in return for underwriting a three for one rights issue to raise £73m.

The company may long since have been written off by the financial community, which has lost 90 per cent of the value of its investment in the past 10 years, but in the booming construction markets of Asia and the Gulf, the Costain name still punches well above its weight.

Shareholders were probably right then to give the company one last chance to pull something from the wreckage. Alan Lowell says he is already talking to Intria about joint contracts both in Malaysia and elsewhere. If potential clients can be reassured by a patched-up balance sheet that Costain will still be around to honour its contracts, there is plenty of work in places like Kuala Lumpur and, unlike in Britain, the prospect of making a profit doing it.

If it all goes horribly wrong, as things tend to with this company, then shareholders can at least console themselves that, this time, someone else wrote the cheque.

OFT lets BSkyB off lightly

The Office of Fair Trading is in danger of missing a trick by accepting undertakings from BSkyB over its trading relationships with the cable companies in place of a full-scale referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Whatever BSkyB might suggest to the contrary, the prospect of a reference would hardly be good news for the company when it is gearing up to invest considerable sums on the launch of up to 200 digital satellite television channels.

The OFT, therefore, had a powerful weapon in its armoury with which to confront BSkyB's dominance of the subscription television market. We will have to wait for the fine print of the undertakings extracted from BSkyB but the danger is that the OFT will fail to maximise its firepower.

The undertakings cover so-called bundling – BSkyB's ability to force cable operators to take a package of programming to qualify for discounts – and the wholesale price at which those programmes are supplied, which is fixed at 60 per cent of the price paid by dish owners.

These have been two of the biggest bones of contention with the cable companies because of the way they are inhibited from pricing and packaging their offerings in response to market conditions.

Action to prevent BSkyB abusing its dominant position in these two areas is to be welcomed. But it looks as if the OFT has missed the opportunity to strike decisively by tackling the whole area of encryption – the little black boxes that enable viewers to convert scrambled signals into a digit's entertainment.

Encryption services are available only from News DataCom, a subsidiary of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp which also owns 40 per cent of BSkyB. In theory, any cable operator could develop their own encryption system. In practice, it would be punitively expensive, meaning that the only access to encryption is through BSkyB. The OFT could have insisted that encryption systems be licensed and available on transparent terms to all programme providers.

Encryption lies at the heart of profitability of pay TV and, in the absence of any action from the OFT, there is every prospect of BSkyB's privileged position migrating from analogue to digital services.

The one crumb of comfort for the cable companies is that more than half BSkyB's net new customers are now being supplied by cable, not satellite dish, increasing their bargaining power. When BSkyB launches its digital satellite, however, the tables will be turned once more. The OFT looks like missing out on the chance to put a regulatory framework in place that will provide for tomorrow as well as today.

Flaws in the rosy economic outlook

When something becomes the conventional wisdom it is time to start thinking about why and how it might be proved wrong.

The current consensus about the world economy is that it is picking up in nice and sustainable fashion, with a near-synchronised upturn under way in the US, Japan and Europe. Germany is lagging a bit, so there will be another cut in short-term interest rates there. Rates in Japan and the US are expected to rise sooner or later, but probably later as inflation is still subdued.

This is unexceptional stuff, so what is the flaw in this rosy outlook? One clue lies in Wall Street's tantalising brush with a crash. The man who dropped a bombshell on the US market a fortnight ago, by pointing out that the ratio of stock market valuation to the replacement cost of corporate assets – Tobin's "q" – is at an all-time high reckons that the Federal Reserve faces an unappetising choice. It can either do nothing, in which case overvalued asset prices will trigger higher inflation. Or it can raise interest rates and choke off the signs of recovery in the world economy.

According to the investment guru Andrew Smithers, one way or another there will be a price to be paid for allowing the Wall Street bubble to blow so long. The choice, he reckons, is between inflation and recession, pointing out in a new report that previous US crashes from similar peaks have been followed by recessions. The fact that there was a boom instead after October 1987 has made us complacent. The risk of recession has increased with the huge rise in the exposure of American households' savings to the stock market since then.

The length and depth of Japan's post-bubble recession this decade highlights the danger. A big fall in shares on Wall Street would probably send the Japanese economy under again too. There would be scant hope then for the German economy's fragile recovery.

Those who find this prognosis all too gloomy and subscribe instead to conventio wisdom should bear in mind that ships have been known to run aground in open waters.

SFA seeks powers to prosecute over lax management

PETER RODGERS
Financial Editor

New rules being considered today by the enforcement committee of the Securities and Futures Authority, will make it easier to discipline senior executives of City firms that get into trouble.

The proposals were drawn up following widespread criticism of the SFA earlier this year, when Peter Baring, former chairman of Barings, and Andrew Tuckey, his deputy, escaped prosecution for rule breaches.

If the new rules are approved after a public consultation period which begins next month, top executives could be prosecuted by the securities regulator for falling down on key management tasks.

The SFA's present rule-book says senior executives have ultimate responsibility for compliance with the rules, but the statement is so generalit can prove impossible to pin down any specific offence on which charges can be brought.

The new rules are expected to spell out several objectives senior executives must aim to meet, including standards of the management of business generally, besides the quality of internal controls and risk management. The SFA's rules on what it can say in public about cases may also be eased.

Now, if the SFA can show that top executives have failed to ensure controls are in place and monitored effectively, the regulator can bring formal charges.

Nick Durlacher, chairman of the SFA, says in the regulators' July briefing notes that the investigations of Mr Baring and Mr Tuckey "did not uncover evidence of wrongdoing by them that would have sustained a prosecution for rule breaches."

He said the two executives had agreed voluntarily not to apply to rejoin the SFA's register of individuals for the foreseeable future, and to accept responsibility for the failure.

But he added: "The absence of a finding of guilt led to a torrent of criticism of the SFA that proved damaging to the perception of regulation as a whole." Mr Durlacher promised the SFA would take into account the objections of senior executives to having greater responsibility placed on them "vicariously".

He said he did not want the pendulum to swing so far as to place unreasonable demands on senior people. But he believed a balance needed to be struck.

The enforcement committee's meeting today coincides with the appearance of two other former Barings executives, Roo Baker and Ian Hopkins, at a hearing of the Commons Treasury Select Committee.

Mr Baker last month became the first senior Barings executive to criticise his colleagues in public, when he used a previous session of the select committee – protected by parliamentary privilege – to allege a cover-up, by former colleagues, of a £50m fraud.

Mr Baker, like Mr Hopkins, is fighting disciplinary action by the SFA, and both believe they have been unfairly blamed. Mr Hopkins is expected to tell the MPs that he tried to blow the whistle on flaws in Barings' internal controls.

Separately, investigators in London and Frankfurt rejected reports from Germany that Nick Leeson, the former trader serving six and a half years in a Singapore jail for his role in the Barings collapse, has £23m deposited in German bank accounts.

Mr Durlacher, referring to earlier versions of the story, said in the SFA's briefing that no evidence has emerged so far to support the claim about Mr Leeson's supposed deposit.

Big banks throw their weight behind the Millennium Exhibition

Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister and millennium commissioner, visiting the site of the Millennium National Exhibition in Greenwich, south-east London, said Abbey National, Barclays Bank, Lloyds Bank, Midland Bank and NatWest were joining the list of companies supporting the millennium festival.

The banks join Amec, British Airways, BAA, British Aerospace, British Telecom, BSkyB, BP, Corporation of London, Ford, GEC, Hanson Energy, London Electricity, Marks & Spencer, Reuters, the Royal Mail and Siemens, which are already committed to supporting the exhibition.

Mr Heseltine also announced the appointment of Chris Peckham to carry forward the work of establishing the National Exhibition at Greenwich. Mr Peckham, a senior executive seconded from British Airways, will prepare the ground for the new operating company to be established to oversee the National Exhibition.

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

BAA buys Heathrow Express

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR
Transport Correspondent

BAA, owner and operator of Heathrow airport, has taken sole control of the troubled Heathrow Express rail project.

The company announced yesterday that it had purchased the 30 per cent share of the venture owned by British Rail for £19.8m. This gives BR, which is being broken up and sold, a small profit on its £15m outlay made in March 1993 when the venture was created. The remainder of the project is funded by BAA.

In 1994, it ran into problems when a tunnel in the airport complex collapsed, bringing down an office block. The project, which had originally been scheduled to be completed in March 1997, will now not open until 1 June 1998, and the cost has increased from £300m to over £350m. When open it will offer travellers a 16-minute service between Paddington and the airport.

BAA's Director of Rail Strategy, Rod Hoare, said: "This is a logical move which makes sound commercial sense. Having full control of the new high-speed rail link will help us achieve our airport access public transport strategy."

The move was prompted by BR's need to sell off all its assets by oext spring in line with government policy. BAA will work in partnership with Railtrack.

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CONTENTS 21 004

Compaq launches fierce new computer wars with 23% cuts

DANIELLE ROBINSON
New York

Wall Street was bracing itself for even bloodier computer price wars in the months ahead following Compaq's move yesterday to cut prices by 23 per cent on existing computers and to introduce a whole new line of products as much as 16 per cent cheaper than its competition.

The latest onslaught by Compaq, the world's leading personal computer maker, has sent shockwaves through an already battle-scarred industry.

Martin Reynolds, a senior analyst at research firm Dataquest, said the introductions "are as significant as the pricing structure changes that Compaq executed in 1992 and portend further shifts in the structure of the PC industry".

US stock markets plummeted once again yesterday, with the Dow Jones Industrial average index off more than 50 points in the first hours of trading as technology stocks took another hammering.

The increasing number of casualties in the computer industry – including news from giants such as Hewlett Packard and Motorola that sales slowed in the second quarter – has in the past fortnight triggered Wall Street's sharpest correction in its six-year-long bull run.

Compaq's move is among the worst blows yet to its competitors because its superior cost structure has enabled it to reduce costs far more than others can afford.

"It's now a case of the strongest survive," an analyst at one of the largest brokerage firms on Wall Street said. "Those that have the lowest cost structure can afford to reduce prices to a level where their competitors start bleeding. Compaq has been renowned in the last 12 months for having such a phenomenal cost structure it can reduce its computers to a level at which competitors cannot compete."

The new Deskpro line of computers launched by Compaq yesterday is the first to benefit from the company's overhaul of its cost base, and represents a complete re-design of its commercial desktop PC line for individuals, small and medium-size businesses.

"The design reflects fine-honed value engineering, allowing the buyer to pick and pay for just the features needed," Mr Reynolds said.

Its most basic model, which features a Pentium 100mhz microprocessor, will cost just $1,000, which Compaq said is 16 per cent lower than its lowest point of entry for competitors.

Its top model in the new range, featuring a Pentium Pro 200mhz chip, will retail at around $4,800. Compaq will lower the price of existing Pentium Pro processor based desktops by up to 23 per cent.

It's not so much that the technology boom is ending, but more a case of computer companies having mis-judged the sustained rate of demand growth in the $120bn global personal computer market. "Everyone was anticipating such huge growth in PC demand that a lot of semi-conductor chip and PC manufacturers ramped up capacity," one analyst said.

Belling pension payback falls short

CHRIS GODSMARK
Business Correspondent

Liquidators winding up the affairs of the collapsed electric cooker-maker Belling have offered to pay £2m, the lion's share of the remaining assets, to the firm's pension fund, which was severely depleted by fraud and by the actions of former directors. However, the offer leaves just £500,000 in the pot for unsecured creditors.

Belling collapsed in 1992 with debts of more than £20m. It later emerged that directors had used the pension fund to try to avoid receivership.

They borrowed £2.1m from the pension fund, a sum paid to a Staffordshire solicitor, Charles Deacon, as an advanced fee for a promised $50m (£32m) loan. The cash never materialised and the loan was not repaid. In January Mr Deacon was jailed for nine years for fraud.

In another ill-conceived and highly unusual deal, the directors, who also acted as pension fund trustees, sold one of Belling's subsidiary companies to the fund shortly before the collapse. When the pension fund later came to sell the company, it made a loss of £4m. The outcome is that hundreds of people, who had not yet reached retirement age when Belling called in the receivers, stand to receive substantially reduced company pensions.

Some cash has since been recovered, but it is thought the trustees appointed to run the fund, the City-based Law Debenture Trust Corporation, are recommending that members accept the current offer from the joint liquidators, Deloitte & Touche and Buchler Phillips. The liquidators' expenses will exceed £1m.

However, the fund members' action group insists the scandal is far from settled. They argue that Belling had agreed to raise the value of pensions on the eve of receivership. If this more generous valuation is used, a further £3m remains unrecovered. It is believed Law Debenture prefers to use a lower figure.

Jim Wignall, an ex-employee who paid into the pension fund for 21 years, explained: "We feel we should have been given all the assets from the liquidation. With this payout there's still a substantial shortfall."

Campaigners continue to call for a Department of Trade and Industry investigation into whether Belling was trading while insolvent in the months leading up to its collapse. In a Commons debate last week, the MP for Burnley, Peter Pike, said: "Warning bells should have sounded and the DTI should have acted. Many professional organisations and advisers failed to give the necessary signals and act properly. It is a disgrace that ordinary honest people have lost out on their pension entitlement."

IN BRIEF

- **The Investors Compensation Scheme** paid out a record £25.5m to 1,524 private investors in the year to 31 March, bringing the total paid out since the scheme began in 1988 to more than £100m, shared among 9,173 successful claimants. Three-quarters of the claims arose from the poor quality of financial advice given rather than actual fraud or criminal action, but the ICS also put a record 71 investment firms into default, an essential stage in the process of awarding compensation. Processing claims costs on average between £800 and £1,500 the ICS said in its annual report. The maximum payout under the scheme is £48,000, but 90 per cent of all individual claims were for less than £30,000 and were paid in full.

- **Kilbarrons**, an investment business based in Sale, Cheshire, was yesterday suspended by the Personal Investment Authority. The PIA banned it from conducting or soliciting investment business. Any investor concerned or affected by the decision can contact the PIA Consumer Helpline on 0171 538 8860.

- **Tate & Lyle's shares** fell 2.5p to 456.5p after the company said a explosion at its Scottsbluff sugar beet facility in Nebraska would hit 1996 pre-tax profits by £10m. Any effect on results for the year ending September 1997 "requires further evaluation of the damage," the company added. The cause of the explosion has not yet been determined. Tate & Lyle made pre-tax profits of £331m in the year to September 1995.

- **Reckitt & Colman** has sold its Brazilian pigments and coatings unit, Globo SA Tintas e Pigmentos, for £60.1m to joint purchasers Bayer and Sherwin-Williams of the US. The sale does not affect Reckitt's household products business in Brazil, which includes brands Veja Multi-Uso, Poliflor, Nugget and Harpic.

- **Hanover International's share dealings** were suspended pending the £40m acquisition of six hotels in the UK from UFB Group. The company said it was considering making a placing and open offer of shares to fund the deal.

- **T&N** has sold AE Turbine Components, a maker of turbine blades and castings for the aerospace and power generation industries, to Precision Castparts Corp for £41m cash. The proceeds will be used to cut debts, said T&N.

- **The European Commission** has cleared Swissair's purchase of Allders International, the world-wide duty and tax-free shop at airports and on cruise liners. Swissair, which has duty and tax-free retail activities onboard its own aircraft and those of its 49 per cent owned affiliate Sabena Belgian World Airlines SA, will now have about 6 per cent of the European economic area's tax and duty-free sector

- **Ian Lang**, President of the Board of Trade, has decided not to refer The Go-Ahead Group's acquisition of Mockett, the holding company of London General Bus Company, to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

- **Mackie International Group**'s one-for-four rights issue of 2.4 million shares at 275p each has been taken up by holders representing 3h.85 per cent of the issue. The remaining 1.5 million shares not subscribed for will be taken up at the issue price by the sub-underwriters.

market report/shares

Jeremiahs come into their own in the twilight zone

DATA BANK

FT-SE 100
3681.3 -29.2

FT-SE 250
4231.0 -19.0

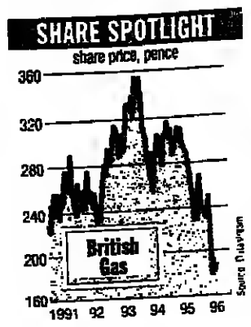
FT-SE 350
1847.6 -13.2

SEAQ VOLUME
547.7m shares,
27,150 bargains

Gilts Index
92.95 +0.07

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, pence



MARKET REPORT

PATRICK TOOHER

Monday, the Jeremiahs warned, was meant to be meltdown day. And so it nearly proved. According to one version of stock market history, the recent 6 per cent correction in New York is only the beginning of something far more dramatic.

In 1929, 42 trading days elapsed between the peak in the US market and the Wall Street crash. The Dow index hit an all-time high of 5,778 on 22 May this year, exactly 42 trading days ago.

London traders must have felt they really were entering the twilight zone when they turned up for work yesterday morning to learn Tokyo had already fallen by 2 per cent overnight. An initial drop of almost 30 points in the Footsie seemed to confirm their worst fears but when Wall Street plunged almost 60 points in early trading some dealers could have been excused for eyeing up the nearest office window ledge.

In the event, London kept its poise to close 29.2 points off at 3,681.3 in thin trading, but another jittery session is in store today with the focus on Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan as he presents the second leg of his testimony to Congress.

Among blue chips the biggest mauling was reserved for **Thorn EMI**, which is in the process of de-merging its EMI music business from its rental activities. The shares shed 42p to 1,693p after Thorn published disappointing first-quarter results from EMI and warned that it might take a £30m provision for its exposure to collapsed German electrical retailer Escom. Sir Colin Southgate, the chairman, also played down bid talk that has centered on EMI.

Other big company casualties included **Tesco**, down 5p at 278p amid continuing speculation about a rights-funded bid for Docks de France. Today is the last day for a counter-bid for the French supermarket chain, which is currently subject to a hostile bid from rival French group Auchan.

Also in the dog-house was telecoms group **Cable & Wireless**, which gave up almost all of Friday's gains to close 14p lower at 413p as profit-takers moved in.

Leisure giant **Rank Organisation** slid 8p to 468p as its house broker NatWest reiterated its reduce recommendation on the stock. The cautious stance stems from uncertainty surrounding the imminent announcement of a strategic review by new chief executive Andrew Teare. It will not only set out which businesses do not fit with his longer-term vision for the group but also, and far more importantly the broker believes, identify where the group's substantial resources should be deployed.

British Gas, where former chairman Sir Dennis Rooke reckons millions of Sids were conned into buying the shares, enjoyed a rare day in the sun, closing 4.5p to the good at 190.5p in active trade. Broker ABN Amro Hoare Govett reiterated its positive stance while news that industry regulator Ofgas is to delay its statement on the TransCo pipeline arm until mid-August added to the positive sentiment.

British Energy, another stock to hit the headlines in recent days, said its Hunterston and Hinkley Point reactors resumed operations after a recent shutdown. Floated amid much embarrassment a week ago, the part-paid shares briefly touched 102p in early trade – just a penny below the price stumped up by institutions – before ending the day 2.5p lower at 97p.

BTR, the industrial conglomerate, firmed 1.5p to 237.5p, with NatWest Securities saying the market is failing to value the company's core manufacturing businesses highly enough.

Shares in **Powerscreen International** rose 10p to hit an all-time high of 490p after the Northern Ireland engineering group gave an upbeat trading statement to shareholders at their annual meeting.

Photocopier suppliers were also in demand. **Danka Business**, reporting on Thursday, recouped some recent losses, rising 7p to 415p, while **Eurocopy** advanced 2p to 73p on renewed buying interest. Recent interim results were better than expected and prompted analysts to upgrade forecasts. Panmure Gordon has a short term price target of 90p.

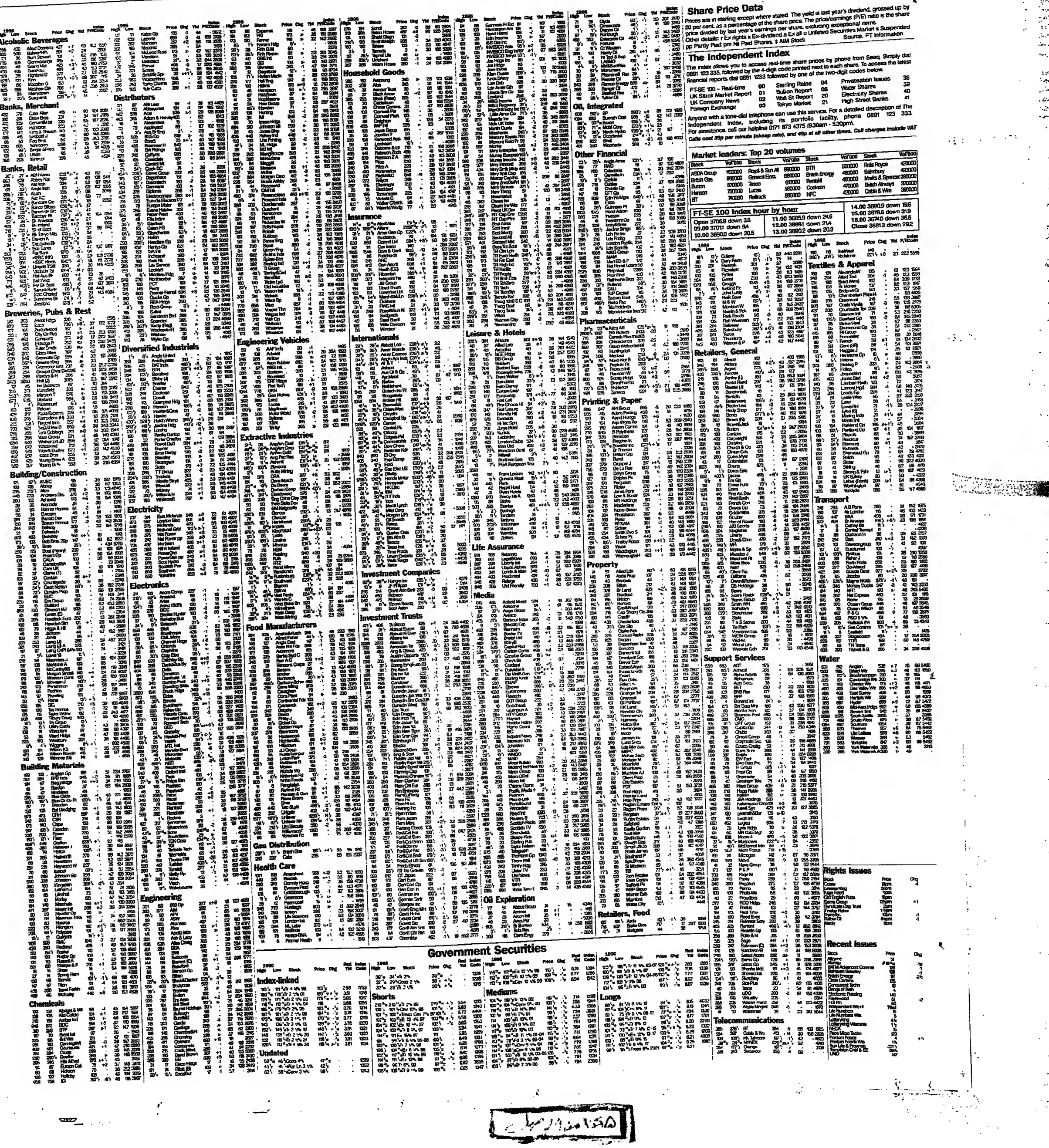
Troubled construction group **Costain** returned from suspension and a stormy shareholders' meeting to see its shares quoted 7p up at 46p.

Elsewhere in the sector RMC bought a further 10,000 shares in the tiny quarry group **Ennemix** at 60p a share, taking its stake to 4.77 per cent.

However, after the market closed French group Lafarge claimed that it had won control of Ennemix with a 52.5 p share offer.

TAKING STOCK

- **Electrophoretics, the AIM-listed biotech start-up floated at 160p, nudged 3p higher to 103p. A recent note from Nomura highlights the potential of a collaborative deal with a leading diagnostic company to sub-license protein markers for nerve-related back pain, brain damage, stroke and cancers. The broker argues this comparatively low-risk strategy is not reflected in the price.**
- **Fears that investors' appetite for more AIM stocks may be sated were eased yesterday when shares in furniture retailer Unn made a sparkling debut. Placed at 134p, they raced to an impressive 13p premium, valuing the company at £20.6m. Based in Liverpool, Uno operates out-of-town stores in Manchester, Leicester, Cardiff and London. The news augurs well for another new issue. Allied Carpets.**



Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.
Other details: r Ex rights x Ex-dividend a Ex all u Unlisted Securities Market s Suspended pp Partly Paid pm Nil Paid Shares. ‡ AIM Stock
Source. FT Information

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Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Vol'000	Stock	Vol'000	Stock	Vol'000
				Stock	Vol'000
ASDA Group	150000	Royal & Sun All	690000	BTR	500000
British Gas	880000	General Elect.	590000	British Energy	480000
Burton	670000	Tesco	610000	Rentokil	480000
Hanson	750000	Lucas	560000	Cookson	470000
BT	740000	Railtrack	580000	NFC	420000
				Rolls Royce	420000
				Sainsbury	420000
				Marks & Spencer	380000
				British Airways	370000
				Cable & Wire	360000

FT-SE 100 Index hour by hour

Open 3706.9 down 3.8	11.00 3685.9 down 24.6
09.00 3701.1 down 9.4	12.00 3689.1 down 21.4
10.00 3690.0 down 20.5	13.00 3690.2 down 20.3
	14.00 3690.9 down 19.6
	15.00 3687.6 down 31.9
	16.00 3674.0 down 36.5
	Close 3681.3 down 29.2

هكذا من الأصل

Privatisation should kick-start developing world

ECONOMIC VIEW

HAMISH McRAE

Privatisation, for the UK at least, in effect ended last week. This is not just because the float of British Energy, the nuclear power generator, will be the last large privatisation for some time if there is a change of government at the next election. It is also because there are only a handful of other potential candidates for privatisation, of which only one, the Post Office, appears seriously attractive and likely to yield substantial sums. Even if a new Labour government wished to carry on the programme, it couldn't, for the cupboard is almost bare.

People who still feel uncomfortable about the whole process of privatisation might extract some slight satisfaction from the fact that the float of British Energy has gone so badly, with the shares moving to a sharp discount. But perhaps the less partisan response would simply be to acknowledge that privatisation is going to stop being a British political issue, and instead become an international economic one.

For privatisation is going to race on in two other groups of other countries, within Continental Europe and in the developing world. As the graph, based on OECD figures, shows, while the UK has been relatively high on the privatisation league for the past three years, other countries have carried out even larger privatisations, while the non-OECD countries account for nearly a third of the total.

As the centre of gravity shifts away from the UK, we here will increasingly become aware of the global impact of the process. Here are half-a-dozen such effects which seem likely to become apparent.

First, there will be some loss of competitive advantage enjoyed by the UK over other European countries. For example, the French economy has been burdened by the need to carry the losses of Air France, which has not made a profit since 1989 and which this week gets approval for its final chunk of government subsidy, and Credit Lyonnais; Germany has had to cope with extremely expensive telephone and data transmission charges; Italy and Belgium with heavily loss-making airlines. As these corporations are privatised (and, as important, subjected to market disciplines) their performance will improve.

So the efficiency of the Continental European economy as a whole will benefit. In the long term that will increase pan-European prosperity, and of course should be welcomed. But in the short term it means that the advantage enjoyed by companies such as British Airways will be narrowed.

In the short term, the advantage enjoyed by the likes of BA will be narrowed

Second, there will be a loss of comparative fiscal advantage experienced by the UK. In very crude terms, the governments of Germany, France and Italy will continue raising £4bn or more each year from privatisation, while the UK will not be able to do so. That may not sound large in overall fiscal numbers. But it is cumulative and it gives those countries a fiscal freedom that we will not have. And, over the next decade, Continental European governments will have the option of cutting their deficits by pushing up the pace of privatisation – whereas the UK can only cut its fiscal deficit the hard way, by increasing taxes or cutting real spending.

Third, Continental European capital markets will continue to be transformed by waves of new share issues. On the one hand, this will put pressure on the markets because absorbing the new stock will be difficult, particularly if the generally solid share price performance of the past three years is superseded by more nervous, difficult markets. (French privatisation issues have already fared badly, which has put a damper on the country's further plans.) On the other hand, the share issues seem likely to stimulate tax and regulatory changes that will encourage the growth of an equity culture in Continental financial centres.

The fourth effect, leading on from this, is the supply of additional equity securities neatly matching the need for Continental Europe to build its private sector pensions industry – which will need to acquire equity securities to match these pension liabilities.

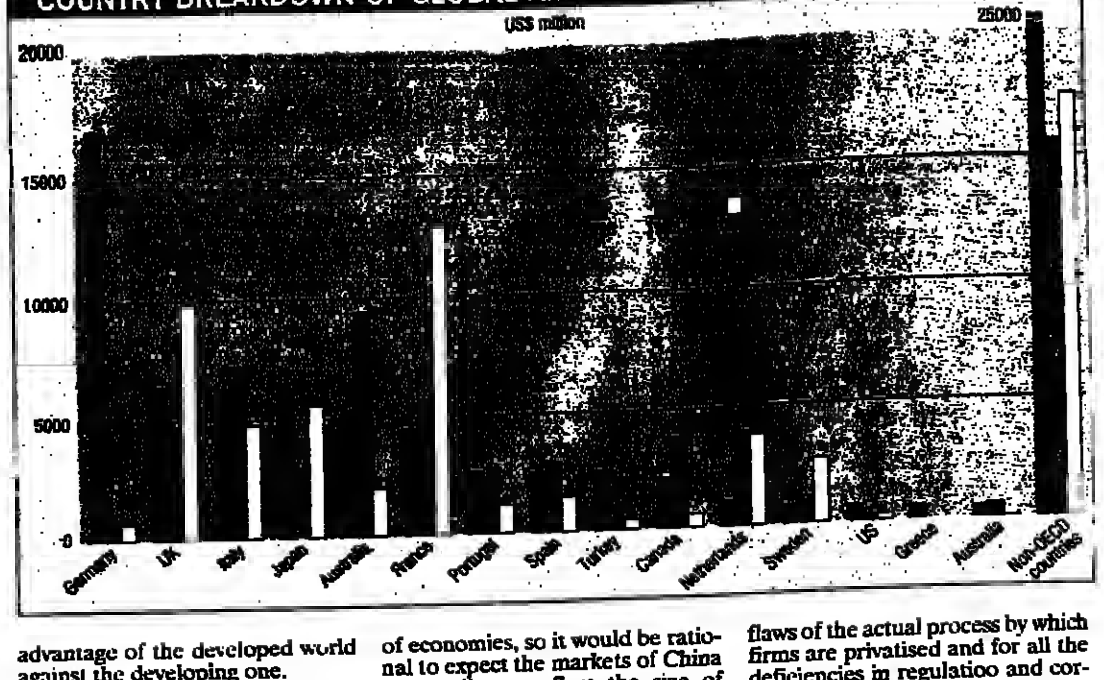
Just this week the German government unveiled more details of its planned reform of securities legislation allowing insurance companies to invest more of their funds in the stock market to boost the use of unit trusts. Privatisation of pensions and privatisation of industry move hand in hand.

The fifth effect is to do with the fact that we are going to hear not just much more about regulation of privatised corporations, but also about their corporate governance. This is of course already a hot issue in the UK, where the rewards to directors of privatised companies have drawn great criticism. Expect it to become a much hotter issue on the Continent, where the culture of accountability to shareholders is even less secure than here.

In the case of Germany, mass privatisation may even be the driving force which reduces the influence of the banking system over the securities market, reversing a relationship which dates back to the 1930s when the banks acquired their large equity stakes.

Perhaps even more important than these pan-European changes, is the impact of privatisation on the non-OECD countries – the sixth factor. We think of privatisation as a Western intellectual export, an example of the victory of the market system over state allocation of investment funds. In one way it is. But just as exporting this idea may narrow the comparative advantage of Britain against Continental Europe, so the export also narrows the advantage of the developed world against the developing one.

COUNTRY BREAKDOWN OF GLOBAL AMOUNT RAISED FROM PRIVATISATION



At present nearly a third of privatisations globally are in less-developed countries or what are called the "transition economies", economist-speak for the former communist countries. It is quite possible that in another decade that ratio will be reversed, with two-thirds of the privatisations coming from the developing countries.

For the moment stock markets remain completely dominated by the developed world, but it quite likely that a decade from now the developing world (or rather the rapidly-developing segment of that world) will jump ahead. The size of securities markets tend to follow the size of economies, so it would be rational to expect the markets of China and India to reflect the size of those economies. By 2004 the World Bank estimates that developing countries as a group will have the same output as the developed countries, while some OECD estimates put China, already the second-largest economy in the world, ahead of Japan, and India number five, ahead of France. Their securities markets remain tiny, but would, in time, develop anyway. The importance of privatisation is that it will give a kick-start to their development, enabling much faster growth than would otherwise occur.

The key point here is that privatisation is a leveller. For all the flaws of the actual process by which firms are privatised and for all the deficiencies in regulation and corporate governance that it has revealed, it is one of the key aspects of the marketisation of the world economy: the creation of a more level playing field between the developed and the developing world.

In time, too, privatisation will start to lose its political overtones. In the UK it still has political implications and doubtless that will linger a while yet. But elsewhere it is becoming a purely practical issue. As the focus shifts away from the UK – as it inevitably will – we will be able to see it in a more detached way. Unless, perhaps, we bought British Energy shares last week.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 months	Dollar Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark Spot
US	1.5499	6-4	6-3	1.000	—	—	0.6728
Canada	2.1198	11-3	50-37	1.3678	2-1	2-0	0.9203
Germany	2.3035	48-41	140-130	1.4863	26-24	84-81	1.0000
France	7.7970	132-113	365-334	5.0308	73-66	217-207	3.3848
Italy	2336.0	48-63	142-186	1507.2	44-51	123-135	1014.08
Japan	166.92	76-70	225-218	107.70	45-44	136-133	72.4618
ECU	1.2208	15-11	45-40	1.2696	7-8	23-25	0.5299
Belgium	47.484	12-7	32-25	30.638	6-5	18-16	20.6133
Denmark	8.8845	159-116	446-235	5.7325	86-65	270-220	3.8569
Netherlands	2.5856	65-57	187-174	1.6683	35-32	107-102	1.1225
Ireland	0.9627	7-3	20-14	1.6100	4-7	12-17	0.4179
Norway	9.9060	120-50	310-200	6.3916	42-17	110-60	4.3003
Spain	194.61	21-31	69-86	125.56	23-27	64-72	84.4816
Sweden	10.222	0-6	1-9	6.5952	98-123	260-310	4.4373
Switzerland	1.8739	54-46	165-152	1.2091	37-34	113-107	0.8135
Australia*	1.9600	20-31	67-85	1.2645	19-21	54-56	0.8506
Hong Kong	11.988	101-61	224-170	7.7347	2-12	15-35	5.2040
Malaysia	3.8576	0-0	0-0	2.4890	4-14	60-80	1.6746
New Zealand*	2.2292	43-57	133-156	1.4382	30-32	88-90	0.9677
Saudi Arabia	5.8127	0-0	0-0	3.7505	2-7	9-14	2.5234
Singapore	2.2001	0-0	0-0	1.4195	41-30	103-88	0.9581

Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	1.5462	0.9987	Nigeria	125.473	80.9400
Austria	16.2095	10.4588	Oman	0.5968	0.3850
Brazil	1.5617	1.0074	Pakistan	54.5900	35.2148
China	12.8884	8.3140	Philippines	40.6462	26.2200
Egypt	5.2722	3.4025	Portugal	236.871	152.835
Finland	7.0159	4.5258	Qatar	5.6417	3.6410
Ghana	2587.87	1670.00	Russia	8008.33	5166.00
Greece	365.243	235.610	South Africa	6.8100	4.3930
India	55.0973	35.5500	Taiwan	42.7286	27.5620
Kuwait	0.4644	0.2996	UAE	5.6940	3.6731

Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount: subtract from spot rate
rate quoted low to high are at a premium: add to spot rate
*Dollar rates quoted as reciprocals.
For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0891 123 3033.
Calls cost 36p per minute (cheap rate) 48p other times.

Interest Rates

UK		Germany		US		Japan	
Base	5.75%	Discount	2.50%	Prime	8.75%	Discount	0.50%
France		Lombard	4.50%	Discount	5.00%	Belgium	
Intervention	3.55%	Canada		Fed Funds	5.25%	Discount	2.50%
Italy		Prime	7.00%	Spain		Central	3.30%
Discount	9.00%	Discount	5.00%	10-Day Repo	7.25%	Switzerland	
Netherlands		Denmark		Sweden		Discount	1.50%
Advances	2.60%	Discount	3.25%	Repo (Ave)	5.90%	Lombard	4.125%

Bond Yields

HSBC Markets Research

Country	5yr	yield %	10yr	yield %	Country	5yr	yield %	10yr	yield %
UK	7½%	7.34	7¾%	7.30	Netherlands	8¼%	5.32	6¼%	6.33
US	6¼%	6.55	6.9%	6.76	Spain	10.10%	7.80	10.15%	8.61
Japan	5.51%	2.36	3½%	3.34	Italy	9½%	8.63	9½%	9.29
Australia	8½%	8.24	10%	8.55	Belgium	5%	5.49	7%	6.72
Germany	5.381%	5.34	6.251%	6.36	Sweden	13%	7.41	6%	8.22
France	5½%	5.41	7.25%	6.36	ECU OAT	6%	5.86	7½%	6.80

Yields calculated on local basis. †new benchmark

Money Market Rates

	O'Night	7 Day	1 Month	3	6 Months	1 Year
Interbank	4¾ 5¾	5 11/16 5 9/16	5⅝ 5½	5 11/16 5 9/16	5 13/16 5 11/16	5 15/16 6⅛
Sterling CDs	-	-	5 9/16	5 9/16	5 11/16	5 13/16
Local Authority Deps	5 1/16	5 9/16	5 9/16	5 9/16	5 11/16	5 15/16
Discount Market Deps	5¼	5¼	-		.	.
Treasury Bills (Buy)	-	-	5 9/16	5 9/16	-	-
Dollar CDs	-	-	5.15	5.34	5.49	5.82
ECU Linked Dep	-	-	4½ 4⅜	4½ 4⅜	4 9/16 4 7/16	4 9/16 4 7/16

Tourist Rates

£ Buys		£ Buys		£ Buys	
Australia(Dollars)	1.8900	France(Francs)	7.5475	New Zealand(Dollars)	2.1750
Austria(Schillings)	15.7100	Germany(Marks)	2.2350	Norway(Kroner)	9.8150
Belgium(Francs)	45.9900	Greece(Drachma)	356.0000	Portugal(Escudos)	229.5000
Canada(Dollars)	2.0570	Hong Kong(Dollars)	11.6400	Spain(Pesetas)	188.0000
Cyprus(Pounds)	0.6885	Ireland(Punts)	0.9375	Sweden(Kronor)	10.0600
Denmark(Kroner)	8.6800	Italy(Lira)	2298.0000	Switzerland(Francs)	1.8090
Holland(Guilders)	2.5100	Japan(Yen)	165.5000	Turkey(Lira)	123938.0000
Finland(Marks)	6.9400	Malta(Lira)	0.5360	United States(Dollars)	1.5050

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract		Settlement price	High for day	Low for day	EstConts traded	Open interest
Long Gilt	(Sep 96)	106-23	106-26	106-17	18551	133234
German Bond	(Sep 96)	96.85	96.84	96.68	86781	225795
J.G.Bond	(Sep 96)	118.50	118.59	118.49	1570	0
Italian Bond	(Sep 96)	117.55	117.72	117.36	40310	59148
3M Sterling	(Sep 96)	94.27	94.28	94.26	8831	86468
	(Dec 96)	94.16	94.19	94.14	13829	98994
3M Euro Yen	(Dec 96)	98.72			0	N/A
	(Mar 97)	98.43	98.43	98.43	50	N/A
3M Euromark	(Sep 96)	96.73	96.73	96.71	23742	186924
	(Dec 96)	96.64	96.85	96.61	23774	208872
ECU	(Sep 96)	95.88	95.88	95.85	598	8630
	(Dec 96)	95.65	95.64	95.62	237	5564
Euro SFr	(Sep 96)	97.43	97.44	97.33	5335	33631
FT-SE 100	(Sep 96)	3677.0	3705.0	3663.0	9771	61418
FT-SE 250	(Sep 96)	4291.0			0	3491
Eurolira	(Sep 96)	91.97	92.00	91.89	13289	58694

Liffe FT-SE Index Option

Settlement price: 3675.0 — closing offer price

Series	3600	3650	3700	3750	Call/Put Total/vols
Aug	96/23	62/41	35/64	16/98	..
Sep	120/45	90/61	63/87	41/115	..
Oct	142/61	111/80	84/103	61/130	..
Nov	162/74	131/92	104/115	80/141	..

Energy

Brent Crude ($/barrel) IPE 5.30pm	*chg	Yr ago	Gas oil ($/tonne) IPE close	*chg	WTI 8pm		Products † ($/tonne) Spot CIF NW Europe	
Sep 18.94	-0.44	18.58	Aug 177.25	-2.00	Sep	20.55	Unleaded Gasoline	206/208
Oct 18.50	-0.46	18.55	Sep 173.50	-2.00	Oct	20.10	Heavy Fuel Oil	184/186
Nov 18.30	-0.30	18.59	Oct 172.00	-1.75	Nov	19.76	Naphtha	87/89
Vol: 18,960	Index: 19.26		Vol: 9,185		Dec	19.35	EC Gasoil	186/192

*since 5.30pm previous day. Year ago prices average for week. Source ICIS-London Oil Reports. 8pm prices

Commodity Indices

GCSI Indices

	Base date	+Spot	%chg Day	31 Dec	%chg YTD	Year ago	%chg Yr
Index	1970=100	198.54	-1.58	203.50	-0.87	173.30	+14.57
Agricultural	1970=100	268.93	-1.51	281.75	-2.37	250.03	+7.96
Energy	1983=100	70.45	-2.35	71.31	+1.17	55.22	+27.57
Indust'l Metals	1977=100	161.49	+0.24	193.32	-16.67	218.21	-24.26
Livestock	1970=100	193.47	+0.64	182.71	+5.22	168.92	+14.53
Precious Metals	1973=100	489.81	+0.09	489.86	-0.10	502.48	-2.52

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. GSCI is a trademark and servicemark of Goldman, Sachs & Co. †Close as of 19 July 1996

Industrial Metals

London Metal Exchange

	$/tonne Cash	3 mths	Volume	LME Stocks		chg
Aluminium HG	1446-47	1482-83	28428	902400	+	2250
Aluminium Alloy	1235-45	1275-80	487	85700	+	220
Copper A	1968-73	1867-68	52873	228725	-	2250
Lead	773.5-74.5	783-84	7228	96700	+	2075
Nickel	6935-45	7050-60	9908	31968	-	192
Tin	6160-70	6215-20	11037	10785	+	90
Zinc	986-87	1014-15	9906	573625	+	2525

Settlement Conversion exchange rates: £/$ 1.5487 — $/Dm 1.4901 — $/¥ 107.76. Stock volumes & change in tonnes as at Friday 19 July

Precious Metals

Spink & Son

pm fix /oz	$	£	Coins	$	£		$	£
Platinum	393.65	254.90	Britannia	401	259	Krugrands	375/389	242/250
Palladium	133.25	86.10	Britannia.5 oz	205	132	Sovs	88/57	57/61
Silver spot	4.97	3.21	Britannia.25 oz	99	64	Nobles	389/403	251/260
Gold Bullion	384.60	248.30	Britannia.10 oz	51	33	Maple Leaf	386/401	249/259

Agricultural

CMS

Cocoa LCE	£/tonne	Coffee LCE	$/tonne	Barley LCE	£/tonne	Potatoes LCE	£/tonne	Potatoes ATA	Gld/100kg
Jul	986	Jul	1500	Sep	102.10	Nov	85.00	-	-
Sep	1003	Sep	1539	Nov	104.75	Mar	110.00	Mar	23
Dec	1011	Nov	1482	Jan	106.75	Apr	127.00	Apr	23
Vol:	1647	Vol:	4,862	Vol:	110	Vol:	178	Vol:	250

White Sugar LCE	$/tonne	Freight LCE	$10/index pt	Wheat LCE	£/tonne	Corn CBOT	Cents/bushel Hi-Lo	Settl
Aug	344.30	Jun	1119	Jul	110.25	Jul	493.00-468.00	476.50
Oct	338.80	Jul	1135	Sep	112.60	Sep	367.75-355.75	356.50
Dec	336.30	Vol:	65	Nov	114.60	Dec	335.25-329.00	331.00
Vol	1134	Index:	1108	Vol:	115			

Other Softs

	Maize (No3)**	$/tonne	unq	Aug/Oct	Soya Oil§	FL/100kg	91.5
July/Aug	Copra (†)	$/tonne	152.0	Jun/July	Coconut Oil (†)	$/tonne	610.0
Oct	Cotton (NY)	UScent/lb	74.60		Sunflower Oil§	$/tonne	unq
Aug	Wool	Acent/kg	705.0	Aug/Oct	Rapeseed Oil§	FL/100kg	92.0
Aug	Rubber*	Mcent/kg	335.0	June/July	Groundnut Oil	$/tonne	910.0

Origin: §Dutch/EC - any origin - †Philippines/Indonesia *Malaysia **N Europe Source: FT Information/Reuters

Latest Unit Trust Prices

Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld
AXA Equity & Law Unit Trust Managers			
AXA Equity & Law Hse, Corporation St, Coventry CV1 1GD			
Tel: 01203 553231			
General Acc	63.90	67.98	2.57
General Inc	54.29	57.78	2.57
UK Growth Acc	43.47	46.25	2.76
UK Growth Inc	28.54	30.37	2.76
Higher Inc Acc	76.78	81.69	4.31
Higher Inc Inc	41.89	44.57	4.31
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	20.88	22.04	5.60
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	83.70	88.98	5.60
Nth America	35.72	38.01	0.00
Europe	35.56	37.83	0.41
Japan Tst Acc	47.01	50.02	0.00
Pacific Basin Tst Acc	40.27	42.85	0.80
Brit Excell	86.17	91.67	2.96
Brit Fndmtls Acc	111.1	118.2	4.94
Brit Fndmtls Inc	76.15	81.02	4.94
Global Opps	102.3	108.9	0.90
Balanced Acc	61.70	65.64	2.73
Balanced Inc	58.37	62.10	2.73
Barclays Unicorn Limited			
11 Broadway, Stratford, London, E15 4BJ			
Tel: 0181 5346544			
Balanced Trusts			
B'tst Inv Fd Acc	83.14	88.69	2.88
B'tst Inv Fd Inc	40.53	42.22	2.85
European Bd Acc	115.4	118.5	6.67
European Bd Inc	95.09	98.42	d6.67
Exempt	78.80	83.81	3.08
Financial	94.38	100.9	2.83
500	80.53	85.19	2.42
General	31.19	33.40	2.69
Property	24.06	25.61	6.56
Trustee	21.38	22.87	d2.82
Income Trusts			
Cash Acc	123.2	123.2	4.97
Cash Inc	100.3	100.3	d4.97
Distribution	109.9	110.4	d6.3
Extra Income	131.5	140.8	4.97
Gilt & Fxd Int*	57.66	58.89	7.98
Income	55.97	59.68	d4.84
Income Builder	67.44	71.93	5.8
Intl Income	68.44	72.80	d2.74
Growth Trusts - UK			
Capital	135.7	144.8	2.12
Growth Acc	404.7	431.7	2.21
Leisure (z)	171.8	183.8	0.73
Recovery	473.8	508.7	2.79
Smlr Cos Acc	67.98	72.81	2.11
Smlr Cos Inc	58.80	62.84	2.11
Special Sits	37.37	39.97	0.75
Growth Trusts - Overseas			
America	163.7	174.0	0.14
Amer Recovery Acc	121.4	129.4	
Aust Acc	275.2	293.8	1.85
Aust Inc	164.8	175.6	d1.85
Euro Gwth Acc	203.9	216.8	0.49
Euro Gwth Inc	188.8	200.5	0.49
Japan & Gen Acc	157.0	168.2	
Japan & Gen Inc	155.2	164.3	
Japan Spec Sits	73.05	77.39	
Worldwide	194.5	206.5	d0.47
*Also known as Income Manager PEP			
Baring Fund Managers Ltd			
PO Box 831, 155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3YS			
Enq: 0171 762 8450			
American Growth	122.2	129.1	0.0
American Smlr Cos	155.9	167.2	0.0
Convertibles	59.22	63.62	d4.9
Eastern	300.4	323.2	0.3
Equity Income	92.81	99.32	d4.4
European Growth	357.1	380.1	0.8
Europe Select	349.2	373.8	1.6
Exempt	100.4	103.4	d3.0
Exempt Fixed Interest	101.6	102.8	6.0
German Growth	88.23	93.50	0.5
Global Bond	69.76	73.40	d6.5
Global Growth	143.2	152.3	0.4
Japan Growth	201.8	216.0	0.0
Japan Sunrise	174.0	185.1	0.0
Korea Trust	72.23	78.41	0.0
Portfolio	142.0	152.1	2.3
Portfolio Acc	265.9	284.8	2.3
UK Growth	97.95	105.3	d2.8
UK Smaller Cos	95.57	104.0	2.5
Select Managers	87.01	93.39	1.0
Charity Fund			
Overseas Gwth Exempt	73.26	74.27	d0.1
Commercial Union Trust Managers			
Prestige Portfolio (PPT Funds)			
Income Funds			
Equity Income	186.97	194.45	4.72
Equity Income Acc	694.85	722.80	4.72
Long Gilt	42.03	43.74	d6.43
Long Gilt Acc	133.88	139.36	d6.43
Monthly Income Plus	48.80	50.83	8.81
Monthly Income Plus Acc	53.53	55.78	8.81
Preference Share	47.29	48.26	d8.09
Preference Share Acc	287.49	308.89	d8.09
Balanced Funds			
High Yield	133.60	139.07	d8.33
High Yield Acc	611.01	636.47	d8.33

Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld
Managed Fund	75.82	78.98	2.72
Managed Fund Acc	99.70	103.85	2.72
UK Growth Funds			
Smaller Cos	50.36	52.46	1.81
Smaller Cos Acc	59.53	62.01	1.81
UK & General	92.36	96.23	2.88
UK & General Acc	118.82	124.81	2.88
UK Growth	183.72	191.37	1.47
International Growth Funds			
Europe Growth	211.31	220.21	0.66
Far Eastern Growth	137.71	143.45	0.02
Global Bond	82.40	85.83	5.78
Global Bond Acc	95.52	99.50	5.78
Japan Growth	115.68	120.48	0.00
North American Growth	225.61	235.01	0.00
Oriental Growth	83.89	87.39	0.27
Worldwide Growth	73.68	76.75	0.00
Worldwide Growth Acc	76.94	80.15	0.00
Other CU Unit Trusts (non PPT Funds)			
CUDOS Japan Equity	108.76	110.29	0.00
CUDOS UK Equity	108.04	109.84	2.01
CUDOS US Equity	109.15	110.81	0.86
Deposit Fund	92.65	92.65	5.18
Deposit Fund Acc	105.05	105.05	5.18
Homemaker Fund	89.49	95.20	1.59
Quilter Fund	148.29	158.82	1.97
Quilter Fund Acc	175.89	188.90	1.97
CU Morley (fmly Geoffrey Morley UK Ltd)			
Exempt Unit Trust	200.86	205.89	d2.24
Framlington Unit Mngt Ltd			
155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3FT			
Tel: 0171-374 4100, Dealing 0171 330 6600			
American Growth	75.42	80.35	0.00
(Accum Units)	75.42	80.35	0.00
Amer Smlr Cos	65.04	66.58	0.00
(Accum Units)	66.45	71.07	0.00
Capital Tst	37.98	40.40	1.5
(Accum Units)	55.48	59.02	1.5
Conti Smlr Cos	62.61	66.89	d0.42
(Accum Units)	66.61	70.95	d0.42
Convertible	138.0	147.9	d5.66
(Accum Units)	301.1	320.3	d5.66
Emerging Markets	71.09	75.65	0.3
(Accum Units)	71.33	76.21	0.3
European	149.0	158.1	0.9
(Accum Units)	157.8	167.5	0.9
Exempt Balanced	75.92	77.58	2.57
(Accum Units)	80.84	82.36	2.57
Extra Income	36.89	39.24	d4.1
(Accum Units)	58.73	62.48	d4.1
Financial	162.2	172.6	0.46
(Accum Units)	172.3	183.3	0.46
Gilt Trust	64.16	66.15	6.79
(Accum Units)	87.17	100.1	6.79
Health Fund Inc	25.84	27.61	0.00
Health Fund Acc	25.84	27.61	0.00
Income & Growth	219.7	233.7	3.61
(Accum Units)	348.0	370.2	3.61
Intl Growth	434.3	463.1	0.00
(Accum Units)	482.2	514.2	0.00
Japan & Gen	180.4	181.6	0.00
(Accum Units)	182.2	193.6	0.00
Mgd Distribution Inc	53.53	56.59	3.71
(Accum Units)	56.51	59.74	3.71
Managed Portfolio Inc	117.3	123.5	1.45
(Accum Units)	127.4	134.1	1.45
Monthly Income	189.3	200.3	d4.38
(Accum Units)	55.70	59.88	4.91
Quarterly Income	62.95	67.68	4.91
(Accum Units)	36.97	38.90	d0.23
Recovery	42.94	45.93	d0.23
(Accum Units)	63.02	67.04	2.76
UK Growth	68.34	72.70	2.76
(Accum Units)			
Friends Provident Unit Trust Managers Ltd			
United Kingdom Hse, Castle St, Salisbury Wiltshire SP1 3SH Enquiries: 01722 715634 Dealing: 01722 715635			
FP Managed Portfolio Service			
Capital Gwth Acc	125.50	133.50	1.53
Open Capital Gwth Acc	129.80	138.10	0.16
Cap Gwth w Income Inc	118.00	125.60	2.95
(Accum Units)	123.50	131.30	2.95
Open Cap Gwth w Inc Inc	119.70	127.30	3.48
(Accum Units)	128.00	134.00	3.48
FP Unit Trusts			
FP American	58.67	62.41	0.36
(Accum Units)	65.47	69.64	0.36
FP Amer Smlr Cos	196.80	210.20	d0.00
FP Asian Growth	282.70	302.30	0.00
(Accum Units)	296.80	317.40	0.00
FP Australian	395.90	424.70	0.00
(Accum Units)	447.70	480.30	0.00
FP Euro Gth	278.50	298.20	0.00
(Accum Units)	304.50	324.00	0.00
FP Equity	432.30	459.80	2.55
(Accum Units)	953.20	1014.00	2.55
FPAM Inst UK Sm Co Inc	104.50	109.40	d1.89
(Accum Units)	104.50	109.40	1.89
FP International Bond	60.41	63.92	4.44
(Accum Units)	163.10	172.50	4.44
FP Intl Gwth	37.99	40.43	0.13
(Accum Units)	55.32	59.03	0.13
FP Pacific Basin Accum	223.90	238.80	0.00
FP Income	58.31	60.06	5.18
(Accum Units)	196.70	209.80	5.18
FP Jap Sm Cos Accum	325.60	347.30	0.00

Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld
FP Monthly Distribution	73.69	78.85	d5.79
(Accum Units)	130.60	139.30	5.79
FP Sterling Deposit	100.20	100.20	d5.05
(Accum Units)	114.90	114.90	5.05
FP Tokyo	85.05	90.72	0.00
(Accum Units)	85.91	91.63	0.00
FP UK Focus	40.86	43.60	2.36
(Accum Units)	49.48	53.06	2.36
FP UK Growth	187.50	200.00	d2.41
(Accum Units)	377.80	403.00	2.41
Stewardship	41.50	43.70	1.49
(Accum Units)	515.90	548.60	1.49
Stwrdship Inc	80.46	85.59	4.82
(Accum Units)	109.00	115.90	4.82
Am Stwdshp	119.70	127.30	d0.44
(Accum Units)	128.50	136.70	0.44
Gartmore Fund Managers			
Gartmore House, 16-18 Monument St, London EC3R 8QQ			
Tel: 0171-782 2000 Dealing only: 01277-264421			
UK Growth Funds			
British Growth	57.41	61.43	2.05
Cash Trust	145.16	145.36	d5.20
Practical Inv (Inc)	120.28	128.65	3.74
Do (Accum)	283.69	303.41	3.74
UK Index	171.87	172.73	3.41
UK Smaller Cos	187.47	200.50	0.58
Income Funds			
Extra Yield	24.77	25.05	d7.06
High Income	33.86	35.94	5.15
UK Equity Income	150.81	161.46	3.34
Global Bond	28.93	31.02	d5.09
International Funds			
Emerging Markets	47.99	51.33	0.00
Global Managed*	148.86	159.42	1.57
Gold & Intl Res	115.36	123.40	d0.00
Global Utilities	143.49	153.09	d1.42
Overseas Funds			
American	194.05	206.20	d0.92
European	131.90	139.77	0.56
Euro Sel Opps	202.29	214.83	0.00
American Emerging	182.8	190.94	0.00
Hong Kong	157.93	168.81	1.56
Japan	247.90	263.44	0.00
Pacific Growth	228.29	244.36	d0.00
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds			
Managed Equity	250.76	250.76	d2.03
Long Term Bal	270.41	270.41	d2.84
Med Term Bal	223.36	223.36	d3.06
UK Equity	288.42	288.42	2.83
UK Emerging Cos	173.96	173.96	d2.03
American	308.59	308.59	1.04
Japan	136.54	136.54	0.00
European	337.73	337.73	1.08
Index Linked Gilt	181.00	181.00	d2.71
Fixed Interest	171.97	171.97	8.47
Amer Emerging Cos	384.69	384.69	0.00
Pacific	242.35	242.35	d0.87
Emerging Mkts	127.17	127.17	0.49
Index Strat Japan	161.00	161.00	d0.14
Index Strat Pacific Rim	205.58	205.58	d1.15
Index Strat Conti Eu	185.22	185.22	d1.92
Index Strat USA	179.59	179.59	d1.81
Overseas Bond Strategy	108.00	108.00	d5.06
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds			
Managed Equity	118.09	125.63	-
Med Term Balanced	106.36	113.14	-
Long Term Balanced	121.55	129.30	-
UK Equity	134.30	142.87	-
UK Emerging Cos	81.49	86.69	-
American	142.78	151.87	-
Japan	93.22	99.38	-
European	140.00	148.94	-
Fixed Interest	88.25	93.88	-
Index Linked Gilt	80.45	85.58	-
Deposit	86.82	82.36	-
Emerging Markets	49.74	52.91	-
Pacific	49.67	52.84	-
Broker Unit Trusts			
BWH International	180.40	189.84	0.50
Briercliff Gth P'folio Inc	72.92	76.96	0.90
Do (Accum)	73.72	77.81	0.90
Briercliff Inc P'folio Inc	80.83	84.20	d3.50
Do (Accum)	67.41	71.15	d3.50
Briercliff Wwide P'folio	82.58	86.05	d0.10
Govett (John) Unit Management Ltd			
4 Battle Bridge Lane, London SE1 2HR			
Tel: 0171 378 7979			
UK Equity Inc	97.97	104.66	d4.56
UK Small Cos	67.13	71.76	0.62
British Growth	65.31	69.84	d8.11
American Gwth	269.53	288.41	0.00
Japan Gwth	72.48	77.50	0.00
Greater China	198.64	212.44	0.16
Pacific Strategy	164.58	175.99	0.00
European Gwth	116.12	124.19	0.00
Int' Growth	157.64	179.28	0.00
US Index	£16.7217	£17.6193	4.00
FT-SE Mid 250 Index	96.36	96.63	2.15
Monthly Income	40.62	43.42	d6.82
Geared UK Index	£13.393	£13.5733	4.75
UK Safeguard	113.84	117.24	0.00
Index & Bear Funds Dealing: 0171 865 0032			
Hong Kong Index	£8.2262	£8.5323	3.50
Hong Kong Bear	£3.7927	£3.3408	3.50
UK Index	£22.5339	£23.4072	4.75

Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld
Japan Index	£110.030	£118.254	0.00
US Index	£126.323	£136.215	3.50
Cash	£95.686	£96.365	5.25
UK Bear	£64.432	£67.703	4.75
Japan Bear	£91.736	£96.925	0.00
US Bear	£67.920	£73.730	3.50
Dollar Bull	£140.898	£148.982	3.50
Dollar Bear	£86.573	£90.274	4.75
Gilt Bull	£112.568	£118.792	4.75
Gilt Bear	£67.166	£70.879	4.75
HSBC Unit Trust Management Ltd			
6 Bevis Marks, London EC3A 7QP Advisers: 0800 181890 Investors: 0800 289365 Dealing: 0171 955 5055			
Benton	96.97	105.0	2.62
Benton Fund Initial Charge 5.0 percent			
Legal & General (UT Managers) Ltd			
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex			
Enquiries: 01277 227300 Dealing: 01277 690395			
Cash Accum	58.70	58.70	5.53
Equity Dist	557.40	557.40	2.88
Equity Accum	1135.00	1135.00	2.88
Equity Income	100.50	100.50	d5.11
UK Tactical Allocation	62.83	62.83	d4.24
European	144.60	144.80	1.17
Far Eastern	243.10	243.10	0.04
Fixed Interest	53.37	53.37	d7.44
Gilt	90.16	90.16	6.73
Global Growth	85.63	85.63	0.46
Inc Bond	55.20	56.20	5.31
Japanese	78.45	78.45	
North American	208.10	208.30	d0.70
Pacific Growth	123.70	123.70	0.14
UK Index	73.09	73.09	3.32
UK Recovery	112.80	112.80	2.14
UK Smaller Cos	158.90	158.90	d1.05
UK Stockmarket Acc	68.67	68.87	1.99
US Index	79.41	79.41	d1.44
European Index	91.08	91.08	1.62
Japan Index	41.41	41.41	d
Worldwide	97.51	97.51	1.43
Lloyds Bank Unit Trust Managers Ltd			
Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4JF			
Tel: 01634 834000 Dealing: 01634 834313			
Balanced Inc	387.80	412.60	2.41
Balanced Acc	916.90	975.60	2.41
Conti Europe Gr Inc	81.60	85.79	0.63
Conti Europe Gr Acc	87.71	92.33	0.63
Extra Income Inc	266.90	286.10	4.33
Extra Income Acc	736.10	783.10	4.33
FT-SE 100 Inc	116.70	123.10	2.79
FT-SE 100 Acc	117.80	125.40	2.79
German Growth Inc	137.70	145.00	
German Growth Acc	144.40	152.00	
Growth Portfolio Inc	646.10	689.50	
Growth Portfolio Acc	667.30	709.90	
High Interest Inc	98.59	100.10	d7.73
High Interest Acc	100.70	104.40	7.73
Income Inc	526.80	562.60	3.42
Income Acc	1498.00	1595.00	3.42
Income Portfolio Inc	538.00	572.40	4.62
Income Portfolio Acc	597.30	636.30	4.62
Japan Growth Inc	110.40	117.50	
Japan Growth Acc	110.80	117.90	
Master Trust Inc	66.37	70.61	d1.33
Master Trust Acc	76.84	81.54	1.33
Millennium Acc	93.06	98.01	2.36
American & Gen Inc	234.00	249.00	d
American & Gen Acc	270.80	288.30	
Am Sm Cos & Rec Inc	193.50	205.90	
Am Sm Cos & Rec Acc	197.50	210.20	
Pacific Basin Inc	270.30	287.80	1.08
Pacific Basin Acc	287.90	306.30	0.18
Smalr Cos & Rec Inc	508.10	534.90	1.67
Smalr Cos & Rec Acc	698.30	733.00	1.57
UK Equity Growth	159.10	169.30	2.80
UK Equity Income	123.20	131.10	4.36
UK Growth Inc	100.40	106.90	d2.07
UK Growth Acc	126.00	134.30	2.07
Worldwide Growth Inc	360.30	383.40	
Worldwide Growth Acc	532.80	566.60	
Premier Exempt	181.00	189.20	d2.83
Lloyds Exempt Umbrella Trust			
European Acc	217.10	226.20	1.84
Far Eastern Acc	72.81	76.88	1.99
Japan Acc	51.00	53.31	
North American Acc	219.90	228.20	1.48
UK Equity Acc	278.30	291.70	2.97
UK Small Cos Acc	148.80	158.00	1.97
M & G Securities Limited			
M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB			
Customer Services/Unit Dealing: 01245 390390			
Amer & General	50.30	53.14	0.43
(Accum Units)	62.86	66.41	0.43
Amer Recovery	54.58	57.72	0.37
(Accum Units)	62.96	66.58	0.37
Amer Smlr Cos	15.81	16.72	d
(Accum Units)	16.15	17.09	d
Australasian	19.87	20.80	2.75
(Accum Units)	24.52	25.92	2.75
Capital	99.30	108.4	2.99
(Accum Units)	113.47	119.99	2.99
Chesford	72.72	73.45	6.08
(Accum Units)	369.91	370.58	6.08
Commodity	45.74	49.43	0.43
(Accum Units)	69.92	72.69	0.43

Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld
Compound Growth	1053.8	1114.4	3.06
(Accum Units)	1149.5	1215.7	3.06
Corporate Bond	24.84	24.92	d7.7
Dividend	42.40	44.80	4.88
(Accum Units)	187.6	198.5	4.88
Equity Income	340.5	360.1	5.2
(Accum Units)	481.2	467.8	5.2
European & General	627.4	663.5	d1.01
(Accum Units)	805.7	852.2	d1.01
European Dividend	79.20	83.80	d3.86
(Accum Units)	100.8	106.7	d3.86
Extra Yield	447.0	472.7	5.18
(Accum Units)	1472.1	1557.0	5.18
Far Eastern	383.8	405.9	0.85
(Accum Units)	511.9	541.5	0.85
Fund of Inv Tsts	679.6	715.5	1.97
(Accum Units)	1298.6	1373.2	1.97
General	653.0	690.0	d4.0
(Accum Units)	192.4	203.5	d4.0
Gilt Income	60.66	60.67	7.3
(Accum Units)	180.66	181.14	7.3
Gold	80.60	85.20	d1.78
(Accum Units)	96.40	102.0	d1.78
High Income	311.0	329.0	d4.94
(Accum Units)	132.9	140.7	d4.94
Intl Growth	908.0	960.0	0.72
(Accum Units)	159.8	168.9	0.72
International Inc	109.0	115.3	4.56
(Accum Units)	170.7	180.5	4.56
Japan & Gen	430.0	454.0	
(Accum Units)	463.0	487.0	
Japan Smaller Cos	158.1	168.2	
(Accum Units)	180.2	169.3	
Managed Growth	268.0	281.0	d
Managed Income	290.0	304.0	4.37
Midland	814.0	849.0	3.41
(Accum Units)	213.0	225.3	3.41
Pension Ex	1092.4	1058.3	4.51
Recovery	462.0	489.0	d2.97
(Accum Units)	795.0	842.0	d2.97
Second General	728.0	768.0	d3.99
(Accum Units)	196.9	208.3	d3.99
Smaller Cos	724.0	766.0	3.28
(Accum Units)	148.5	158.8	3.28
Treasury	25.17	25.22	5.84
Trustee	423.0	447.0	4.81
(Accum Units)	179.9	190.3	4.81
Martin Currie Unit Trusts Ltd			
20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2ES			
Tel: 0131 229 5252, Dealing, 0131 479 4846			
Inc Income	79.67	84.58	d4.04
European (z)	105.0	111.5	0.63
Income	79.74	84.85	4.36
Nth American (z)	90.09	95.84	d0.76
Far East (z)	180.2	191.3	d0.38
Japan	65.17	69.18	
Emerging Markets	90.01	96.27	
Intl Growth	129.3	137.3	0.82
UK Growth	118.0	126.3	2.80
Asian Opportunities	38.42	41.09	d0.30
UK Smaller Cos	59.76	63.46	1.06
Global Growth PEP	61.10	64.85	1.25
Newton Fund Managers Ltd			
71 Queen Victoria St, London EC4 4DR			
Clients 0500 550000 Broker 0500 660000			
Dealing 0500 440000			
American	52.17	55.50	0.00
American Acc	62.59	65.83	0.00
Bridge	95.60	101.72	2.14
Cash Acc	68.48	68.48	5.29
Cash Income	50.37	50.37	5.29
Distributor	98.58	104.97	d2.07
European	55.09	58.60	d0.00
Foundation	106.67	112.41	2.82
General	211.70	225.21	d1.51
Global	378.19	402.32	0.00
Growth	139.37	148.26	2.52
Growth Acc	141.27	150.28	2.52
Higher Income Inc	30.24	32.17	4.94
Higher Income Acc	36.17	38.47	4.94
Income	252.33	268.22	d8.58
International Bond	126.26	132.84	d5.72
Intrepid	145.38	149.35	1.86
Japan	28.29	30.09	0.00
Oriental Acc	163.49	169.56	0.74
Oriental Income	158.45	168.58	0.74
Personal Intl Gwth	36.54	38.87	0.00
Northern Rock Unit Trusts Ltd			
Baltic House, Regent Centre, Gosforth			
Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3NG			
Telephone: (0191) 285 2555			
Rock Managed	109.7	116.1	2.53
Northern Rock High Income	46.05	48.71	d6.63
Pembroke Administration Ltd			
37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH			
Telephone & Dealing: 0171 813 2244			
Pembroke Growth	238.41	253.63	1.33
Pembroke World Acc	83.78	89.13	0.65
Pembroke Balanced	206.54	219.72	3.23
Pembroke Eq Income	125.37	132.67	4.60
Perpetual Unit Trust Mngmt Ltd			
Perpetual Hse			
Henley on Thames 01491 417000			
International Gwth Inc	682.29	729.44	0.45

Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld
International Gwth Acc	684.96	732.30	0.45
Income	412.58	441.27	3.27
W'wide Recovery Inc	453.44	484.97	0.59
W'wide Recovery Acc	454.19	485.77	0.59
American Growth Inc	299.78	319.63	0.01
American Growth Acc	299.78	319.63	0.01
European Gwth Inc	176.60	188.56	0.54
European Gwth Acc	177.21	189.34	0.54
Inc Emerging Cos Inc	294.73	315.22	0.11
Intl Emerging Cos Acc	294.31	315.42	0.11
Far Eastern Growth Inc	312.37	334.09	0.86
Far Eastern Growth Acc	313.51	335.31	0.86
UK Growth Inc	108.14	116.73	2.70
UK Growth Acc	117.21	125.36	2.79
High Income	107.73	115.22	d4.04
Japanese Gwth Inc	220.50	235.32	0.18
Japanese Gwth Acc	220.50	235.32	0.18
PEP Growth	142.66	152.54	0.94
PEP Bond	51.70	53.91	7.89
Asian Smlr Mkts Inc	139.81	149.54	0.20
Asian Smlr Mkts Acc	140.14	149.88	0.20
American Smaller Cos Inc	193.11	206.54	0.01
American Smlr Cos Acc	193.11	206.54	0.01
Global Bond	57.47	60.58	5.29
UK Smaller Cos Inc	108.40	118.80	d1.58
UK Smaller Cos Acc	113.36	121.25	1.58
Money Acc	54.52	54.52	5.46
Latin American Gwth Inc	35.93	38.43	0.88
Latin American Gwth Acc	36.26	38.79	0.88
Exempt Funds			
UK Exempt	365.21	380.60	2.89
Overseas Exempt	321.14	343.42	0.31
Prudential Unit Trusts Ltd			
51-59 Ilford Hill, Ilford, Essex, IG1 2DL			
Managed Tst	46.32	48.96	1.75
Cash Haven Inc	101.60	102.10	d5.03
Cash Haven Acc	117.97	118.55	d5.03
Dist Inc	103.35	107.10	d8.48
Dist Acc	115.83	120.03	d8.48
Global Growth	103.20	108.79	d1.44
Prudential Equity Inc	87.74	93.34	d4.68
Equity	841.30	894.79	2.44
Prudential European	268.84	278.31	0.77
High Income	90.45	96.22	d5.44
Intl Grth	218.42	232.36	d0.74
Intl Sm Co	96.78	102.86	0.65
Japanese	227.36	235.61	0.00
Nth Amer	228.48	238.85	d1.30
Pacific Mkts	118.16	120.37	d0.79
Premier Inc	47.96	48.91	d6.81
Sm Cos	110.53	117.59	1.72
Spec Sits	122.30	130.11	d2.71
UK Growth	142.61	151.71	2.36
Royal Life Fd Mgmt Ltd			
PO Box 34, Peterborough PE2 0UE			
Tel: 01733-390000			
RL Emerging Mkts	46.76	49.89	0.00
Save & Prosper Securities Ltd			
Clients: 0800 829 100 Brokerline: 0800 727 770			
16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB			
Amer Inc & Gwth	88.41	94.05	3.21
Amer Smlr Cos	143.4	152.6	
Asian Smaller Cos	47.59	50.62	d
Capital Portfolio	147.7	157.1	0.95
UK & Overseas	192.6	204.9	d1.09
Cash	134.1	134.1	d5.24
China Dragon	62.70	66.70	1.34
Commodity	150.5	160.1	
Eastern Discovery	114.2	121.5	
Emerging Markets	38.59	41.05	d0.29
Energy Inds	159.8	170.0	
European Gwth	236.3	251.4	0.29
Euro Inc & Gwth	95.40	101.5	d1.65
Euro Smlr Cos	75.58	80.38	0.00
Exempt Income	149.5	152.4	3.76
Extra Income	53.22	57.01	6.34
Financial Secs	271.8	289.0	1.05
High Income	48.88	49.86	7.56
Gold & Exploration	110.5	117.5	
Growth	402.0	404.0	1.76
High Return	242.9	258.4	d4.36
High Yield	252.0	268.1	3.12
Income	129.2	137.4	3.79
Intl Bond	171.0	180.6	5.91
ITU	231.8	246.6	0.67
Japan Growth	182.4	194.0	
Japan Smaller	198.7	211.4	
Korea	56.69	62.44	
Latin America	40.64	49.23	d0.34
Masterfund	64.50	64.82	d0.94
Scotshares	342.9	364.8	2.05
Scotyields	271.2	288.5	2.88
Select Intl	154.1	163.9	0.58
Smaller Cos Inc	268.4	285.5	3.48
SE Asia	53.34	56.74	0.00
Southern Africa	59.48	63.28	1.26
Special Situation	151.8	161.5	d1.09
UK Equity	276.6	294.3	d3.42
UK Growth	77.09	82.01	1.57
UK Smlr Cos Gwth	59.13	62.90	1.27
US Growth	204.2	217.2	
Univ Growth	157.4	167.4	0.72
Schroder Unit Trusts Ltd			

Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld
Senator Hse, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EJ			
Clients: 0800 526 535 Broker: 0800 526 540			
Retail Funds			
American	318.03	338.35	0.90
(Accum Units)	350.75	370.96	0.90
European Gwth	89.74	95.11	0.00
(Accum Units)	94.32	99.96	0.90
Euro Smlr Cos	112.01	119.21	d0.29
(Accum Units)	118.52	120.82	d0.29
Far Eastern Gwth	112.73	120.34	d0.00
(Accum Units)	114.91	122.57	d0.00
Gilt & Fixed Interest	52.05	54.84	7.47
(Accum Units)	75.93	80.00	7.47
Global Bond	51.22	52.92	d6.72
(Accum Units)	61.03	63.06	d6.72
Global Emer Mkts	58.89	62.81	0.00
(Accum Units)	58.94	62.87	0.00
Income	397.36	423.83	5.07
(Accum Units)	1316.37	1404.14	5.07
Japan Smlr Cos	485.53	507.89	d0.00
(Accum Units)	486.50	518.92	d0.00
Japan Enterprise	69.45	74.08	0.00
(Accum Units)	69.45	74.08	0.00
Pacific Gwth	159.42	170.04	0.52
(Accum Units)	165.13	178.13	0.52
Seoul	49.17	52.44	0.00
(Accum Units)	49.17	52.44	0.00
Smaller Cos	307.56	328.05	d0.79
(Accum Units)	365.44	389.80	d0.79
Tokyo	131.70	140.47	0.00
(Accum Units)	133.09	141.89	0.00
UK Enterprise	320.23	341.57	d2.31
(Accum Units)	395.72	422.10	d2.31
UK Equity	288.35	307.57	d2.70
(Accum Units)	582.86	621.83	d2.70
US Smlr Cos	219.27	233.88	0.00
(Accum Units)	219.27	233.88	0.00
Portfolio	93.12	98.32	2.03
(Accum Units)	102.76	108.64	2.03
Institutional Funds			
European	286.82	297.42	d2.07
(Accum Units)	323.87	335.88	d2.07
Euro Smlr Cos	37.50	39.06	1.26
(Accum Units)	40.35	42.03	1.26
Global Equity Inc	91.02	94.81	1.04
(Accum Units)	96.30	100.30	1.04
Japan Smlr Cos	41.32	43.04	d0.11
(Accum Units)	41.72	43.45	d0.11
Mngd Balanced	220.91	230.11	3.20
(Accum Units)	257.57	268.29	3.20
Overseas Equity	220.88	230.03	d1.31
(Accum Units)	231.64	241.29	d1.31
Ocean Smlr Cos	152.85	159.21	0.92
(Accum Units)	161.07	167.77	0.92
Pacific	282.63	294.40	1.38
(Accum Units)	318.32	328.57	1.38
Recovery	2287.48	2382.77	d3.05
(Accum Units)	2517.76	2622.04	d3.05
UK Index	177.86	185.29	3.52
(Accum Units)	228.77	236.21	3.52
UK Small Cos	139.58	145.39	2.44
(Accum Units)	153.23	159.61	2.44
US Smlr Cos	63.59	66.23	0.51
(Accum Units)	65.12	67.83	0.51
Singer & Friedlander Inv Funds Ltd			
21 New Street, London, EC2M 4HR			
Tel: 0171 867 8777, Dealing: 0171 626 8286			
American Growth	121.35	121.35	
Aztec	69.99	69.99	
European	167.44	167.44	
Global Bond	91.39	91.39	8.19
Samurai	60.90	60.90	
Sterling Reserve	100.33	100.33	d4.70
Tai Pan	107.09	107.09	
UK Growth	107.23	107.23	2.43
UK Emerging Leaders	112.76	112.76	2.36
Preferred Income	106.68	106.68	d4.92
UK Equity Income	108.72	108.72	d4.89
Investment Trust	113.35	113.35	0.97
Singer & Friedlander Unit Mgrs Ltd			
European Trust	89.32	95.02	0.94
Far Eastern Tst	70.72	75.23	0.00
Global Growth PEP	76.27	81.13	1.19
Investment Trust PEP	56.70	60.31	0.00
Preferred Income	99.61	105.6	d5.68
Smaller Cos	257.8	274.0	d0.87
Standard Life Unit Trusts			
POBox 141,1 Tanfield,Edinburgh EH3 5RG 0800393777			
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd			
Global Advantage Inc	45.86	48.09	1.58
Global Advantage Acc	49.89	49.94	1.58
Income Advantage Inc	34.29	34.47	d3.46
Income Advantage Acc	39.81	40.31	3.45
UK Equity Gth Acc	94.16	99.81	1.03
Premier Income Inc	48.50	51.05	d7.31
Premier Income Acc	51.23	53.92	7.31
Managed Acc	60.90	64.56	1.45
UK Eq High Inc Inc	39.32	40.68	4.19
UK Eq High Inc Acc	51.49	54.58	4.19
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd			
UK Equity Gen Acc	74.46	79.12	2.24
UK Equity Gen Inc	53.82	57.18	2.24
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	31.65	33.46	6.68
Oseas Larg Cos Acc	36.65	39.77	1.32
Nth American Acc	56.10	59.61	

Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld
Pacific Basin	46.26	49.06	0.50
Japan Acc	28.20	29.87	-
European Acc	60.49	64.28	0.76
Stewart Ivory Unit Trust Mgrs Ltd			
45 Charlotte Sq, Edinburgh EH2 4HW			
Dealing & Enquiries: 0131 226 3271			
American	506.4	538.8	-
(Accum Units)	599.8	635.8	-
British	1257.4	1330.3	3.07
(Accum Units)	2405.4	2544.9	3.07
Emerging Markets	164.8	175.5	0.68
(Accum Units)	166.9	177.8	0.68
Euro Smaller Co	66.85	71.19	0.68
(Accum Units)	75.01	79.88	0.68
Japan	142.2	151.0	-
(Accum Units)	143.3	152.2	-
New Pacific	444.8	473.7	d1.02
(Accum Units)	478.8	508.7	1.02
Investment Tst	256.0	271.4	0.87
(Accum Units)	294.3	312.7	0.87
Mngd Equity	202.6	214.3	d1.56
Mngd Equity Acc	231.8	245.2	1.56
Mngd Cash	95.59	95.69	5.49
(Accum Units)	144.6	144.6	5.49
Sun Life Trust Mngmt Ltd			
PO Box 1810, Dept RPD, Bristol BS99 5SN			
Enq: 0171-606 4044 Dealings: 0171-606 6010			
Amer Growth Acc	85.40	90.73	0.07
Cap Protector Inc	46.10	49.04	2.81
Cap Protector Acc	59.19	62.97	2.81
Distribution Inc	26.14	27.81	3.40
Distribution Acc	27.90	29.36	3.40
Emerging Markets Acc	21.83	23.22	d0.00
Euro Growth Acc	103.84	108.82	0.01
Far East Gwth Acc	159.15	169.31	d0.00
Japan Growth Acc	110.95	117.72	0.00
Mngd Extra Income Inc	34.56	36.67	d6.70
Mngd Extra Income Acc	43.61	46.28	d6.70
Mngd Growth Acc	107.48	114.34	0.00
Mngd High Yield Inc	86.06	91.55	4.44
Mngd High Yield Acc	116.63	124.07	4.44
Mngd Inc & Gth Inc	82.35	87.61	3.32
Mngd Inc & Gth Acc	105.00	111.70	3.32
Discretionary Portfolio	58.05	61.76	0.00
Pacific Growth Portfolio	52.79	56.16	0.70
UK Growth Acc	88.80	94.47	2.30
UK Income Inc	56.98	60.63	3.28
UK Income Acc	88.57	94.22	3.23
UK Smaller Cos	40.37	42.95	1.70
Thornton Unit Managers Ltd			
Swan House, 33 Queen Street, London EC4A 1AX			
Tel: 0171-246 3000, Dealing: 0171 246 3001			
Dresdner Europe Bd	45.31	47.11	5.6
(Accum Units)	72.59	75.48	5.6
European	334.32	350.07	1.0
(Accum Units)	340.83	356.89	1.0
Exempt	633.15	662.40	d3.5
(Accum Units)	2204.50	2306.53	d3.5
Global Emerging Mkts	86.96	91.06	0.5
(Accum Units)	95.19	98.67	0.5
Japan Tst	79.96	83.74	
(Accum Units)	79.96	83.74	
Little Dragons	100.42	105.15	
(Accum Units)	103.37	108.24	
Nth Amer Gwth	282.26	295.56	d0.5
(Accum Units)	354.18	370.86	d0.5
Oriental Income	48.35	50.62	3.7
(Accum Units)	66.91	70.06	3.7
Preference	128.53	136.63	8.8
(Accum Units)	761.89	797.78	8.8
Tiger	304.68	319.03	
(Accum Units)	320.09	335.17	
UK Blue Chip	72.98	76.41	2.0
(Accum Units)	78.59	83.94	2.0
UK Growth	632.95	662.78	1.0
(Accum Units)	1457.82	1526.51	1.0
UK High Yield	108.21	113.30	d6.1
(Accum Units)	376.73	394.48	d6.1
UK Mid-Cap	316.15	331.03	1.8
(Accum Units)	604.11	632.56	1.8
UK Smlr Cos	133.31	139.58	0.7
(Accum Units)	159.30	166.80	0.7
UK Smaller Cos Div	92.15	96.49	d5.7
(Accum Units)	172.78	180.92	d5.7

Key
d — ex dividend
e — exit charge when units sold
buy — formerly 'offer'
sell — formerly 'bid'
z — Non SIB recognised funds

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sport

Lehman exploits void in pressure

Tim Glover on the unlikely triumph of a golfer who is no longer a runner-up

Nick Faldo predicted before the start of the 125th Open that a score as low as 14 under par would win the championship but even he could not have foreseen somebody scoring 73 in the final round to secure the old silver claret jug. Tom Lehman was allowed that luxury and in finishing at 13 under for the tournament he won by two strokes.

"In the last round, when the pressure was on, the leading players didn't score as low as you would have thought," Michael Bonallack, secretary of the Royal and Ancient, said. "I thought the course held up very well and the best players came to the top." When Lehman was joint second, behind Steve Jones, in the US Open at Oakland Hills last month, he was one under par.

Faldo, who was three strokes adrift of Lehman here following a 70, patted the American on the back at the 18th green and said: "You deserve it." He was speaking for many players who are familiar with Lehman's history. A regular at the US qualifying school, his slender CV included victories in mini tour events such as the Reflection Ridge Open, the Mississippi Gulf Coast Classic and the Santa Rosa Open. In 1986, down to his last $1,000 (£645) and without a tour card, he was forced to play in Asia and South Africa. "Lehman's a fierce competitor," Jack Nicklaus said. "He's got all the shots and he's tough as we saw in the Ryder Cup. He's not a natural so he's had to pay his dues and he has to work at it."

On Sunday Lehman won £200,000, the reward for his first major triumph although he had come close in the US Open on three occasions and was runner-up to Jose Maria Olazabal in the Masters two years ago. At Oakland Hills, in Detroit, Lehman played in the last round with Steve Jones, another born-again Christian, and offered his opponent encouragement by quoting from the Bible. He did not see the need to quote from Joshua 1:9 to Faldo, his playing partner here on Sunday. "Faldo was an absolute gentleman and an absolute pleasure to play with," Lehman said. "He played awfully well but did not make any putts whatsoever. It's easy to see why he has won so many major championships. When he has that kind of swing it makes it hard to be in his company. I could tell Nick started losing confidence with his putter and did not stroke the ball well. If he had got his rhythm going with the putter it could have been a different scenario."

In the last round of the Masters at Augusta Faldo was six strokes behind Greg Norman and won by five. Although he generally outplayed Lehman here from tee to green he missed a string of putts. Lehman, who could hardly miss a putt in compiling a 64 in the third round, was also having problems on the greens. "The putter," he said, "felt like lead. I was able to get away with the mistakes I made."

Ernie Els got to 13 under par on the back nine but could not sustain the challenge. "I wanted Lehman to look at the leaderboard and put pressure on him but I just couldn't finish it," Els said. "I had everything going for me." He shot 67 to finish joint second with Mark McCumber.

The only American to have won at Royal Lytham was Bobby Jones in 1926 but on Sunday there were five in the top seven. With the links becalmed, Faldo had also predicted a good week for the Americans. As Faldo went head to head with Lehman on Sunday afternoon, the man from Scottsdale, Arizona, had to put up with a few uncharitable remarks from spectators not to mention a male streaker on the 18th fairway. "I thought the one at Wimbledon was a lot better," Lehman remarked. The streaker was collared by the Lancashire police and led away in handcuffs but he was later released without charge.

Bonallack acknowledged that spectators were generally better behaved at the Masters at Augusta National. "They have the ultimate sanction there. If anybody doesn't behave they ensure that he will never get a ticket again. We don't have that option. The Open is not an all-ticket affair and it would be very difficult to make it so."

The R & A said they would have no hesitation in bringing the Open back to Royal Lytham and estimated that the town would benefit to the tune of £18m. They thought the pace of play was quicker than at St Andrews 12 months ago. Although several Americans chose not to play in the championship the most surprising absentee was Tony Jacklin, exempt from qualifying after winning the Open here in 1969. The attendance for the week was 171,000. When Seve Ballesteros won here in 1988, the attendance was 203,000 but play went to a fifth day because of torrential rain. Last week there was not a cloud on the horizon and barely the whisper of a breeze and that was the missing link.

Penultimate act: Tom Lehman putts at the 17th on Sunday, knowing that only disaster could deprive him of his first major Photograph: Robert Hallam

O'Reilly calls for Union solidarity

Rugby Union
DAVID LLEWELLYN

A distinguished old Lion, Tony O'Reilly, yesterday added his powerful voice to the great rugby union debate. On the eve of the Home Unions summit meeting in Cardiff, O'Reilly, who went on two tours with the British Isles in the 1950s and won 29 caps for Ireland, appealed for common sense and unity among England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

"This is a very important meeting," O'Reilly said. "World rugby should not be dominated by any one media company, be it the BBC, ITV, NBC, CNN, and certainly not by BSkyB. The notion of rugby football becoming, in a sense, user-friendly, as dictated by the media or entertainment managers of a media company, whatever media company, is like tampering with the rules of golf, or the rules of soccer."

O'Reilly is the chairman and chief executive of the American company HJ Heinz and is also chairman of the Independent Newspaper Group, which owns a 46.5 per cent stake in this newspaper.

His Lions experiences have convinced him of the value of unity at all costs among the British Isles and Ireland. "Australia, South Africa and New Zealand want to play the British Isles far more than they want to play the individual countries," he said. "The four home nations have always been together and, having played on two tours to South Africa and then Australia and New Zealand, I feel qualified to talk about this.

"The negotiating bodies for any TV contract can only be appointed by the four home unions or their professional appointees. No single union has the right to go off and sign.

"Club rugby is different and, having played for Leicester for many years, I know a lot about it from that point of view. If the Baths, Bristols, Cardiffs and Swanseas wish to negotiate their best terms with any TV companies then that's their business. But the Five Nations tournament is sacrosanct.

"The four home unions and not any individual union should negotiate with all the media companies and get the best deal – and that may well be with BSkyB – for all the game and that includes the players and the spectators."

O'Reilly, who is now 60, painted a bleak picture for rugby in the northern hemisphere. He is one of the owners of the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball team and said the unions should emulate American football. "There the franchise holders put all the money into one pot. That is then divided equally among the 30 teams."

O'Reilly said the game's governing body then puts a cap on the amount of money that each club can use to pay players and he is convinced a similar scheme would work well in the new era of professional rugby union.

"It would mean each club would have, say, £1 million for wages, they either pay one man the whole lot or perhaps 20 men £50,000 each," he said. "And with a system like that you would get an automatic cap on the number of players at any one club because of the limitation on how much they should be paid."

He made a final appeal to the four Home Unions. "Negotiate as one, the Five Nations. Let the clubs negotiate for themselves." And he advised them: "Accept less today for a more orderly tomorrow."

If O'Reilly's advice is followed it could result in a much reduced offer from BSkyB but would certainly rekindle the interest of the terrestrial broadcasting companies and fulfil the wishes of the Welsh, Irish and Scots, who had been vehemently opposed to Sky's perceived monopoly on live broadcasts.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Britannic Assurance County Championship

Final day of four

Essex v Nottinghamshire

CHELMSFORD: Essex (24pts) beat Nottinghamshire (4) by six wickets.

Nottinghamshire won toss

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE – First Innings 97 (R C Irani 5-27, M C Ilott 4-31).

ESSEX – First Innings 368 (G A Gooch 91, P J Prichard 60; M N Bowen 5-119).

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE – Second Innings 415 (P R Pollard 86, R T Robinson 51, P Johnson 61, K P Evans 56, C L Cairns 51).

ESSEX – Second Innings

(Set [illegible] 26 for 2)

P J Prichard not out	74
N V Knight c Pollard b Bates	54
J A Ford c Pollard b Bates	0
S G Law not out	1
Extras (b2, nb6)	8
Total (for 4, 46 overs)	145

Fall (cont): 3-129, 4-129.

Did not bat: *P J Prichard, P C Irani, M C Ilott, P J Williams, S J W Andrew.

Bowling: Evans 7-3-10-0; Bowen 8-1-31-1; Bates 13-1-38-2; Afford 15-3-45-1; Afzaal 3-0-14-0.

Umpires: D J Constant and G Sharp.

Lancashire v Derbyshire

OLD TRAFFORD: Derbyshire (21pts) beat Lancashire (7) by two wickets.

Lancashire won toss

LANCASHIRE – First Innings 587 for 9 dec (J E R Gallian 312, S P Titchard 96, J P Crawley 54)

DERBYSHIRE – First Innings 473 for 8 dec (C J Adams 119, K M Krikken 104, D G Cork 83no; G Chapple 4-83)

LANCASHIRE – Second Innings

J E R Gallian st Krikken b Jones	11
S P Titchard b DeFreitas	15
J P Crawley not out	97
G D Lloyd run out	45
Extras (b4, lb1)	5
Total (for 3 dec, 40 overs)	174

Fall: 1-24, 2-30, 3-174.

Did not bat: M A Atherton, *M Watkinson, †W K Hegg, S Elworthy, G Chapple, P J Martin, G Keedy.

Bowling: Harris 2-0-3-0; DeFreitas 11-1-41-1; Jones 16-2-79-1; Barnett 2-0-17-0; Adams 9-1-29-0.

DERBYSHIRE - Second Innings

K J Barnett c Hegg b Chapple	92
A S Rollins c Hegg b Martin	4
C J Adams c Keedy b Chapple	1
*D M Jones c Titchard b Keedy	107
P A J DeFreitas c Titchard b Chapple	4
T J G O'Gorman b Keedy	6
C M Wells st Hegg b Keedy	1
†K M Krikken run out	12
D G Cork not out	34
M J Vandrau not out	1
Extras (b11, lb12, w2, nb2)	27
Total (for 8, 64.3 overs)	289

Fall: 1-14, 2-22, 3-220, 4-227, 5-230, 6-233, 7-240, 8-287.

Did not bat: A J Harris.

Bowling: Chapple 15-0-55-3; Martin 8-1-15-1; Keedy 21-1-91-3; Watkinson 12.3-0-70-0; Elworthy 8-0-35-0.

Umpires: G I Burgess and A Clarkson.

Northamptonshire v Middlesex

NORTHAMPTON: Middlesex (20pts) beat Northamptonshire (4) by 26 runs.

Middlesex won toss

MIDDLESEX – First Innings 157 (K R Brown 54; J P Taylor 5-36).

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE – First Innings 172 (K M Curran 55no; A R C Fraser 4-28).

MIDDLESEX – Second Innings 302 (P N Weekes 140, J D Carr 57; J P Taylor 6-68).

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE – Second Innings

(Saturday: 211 for 4)

D J Capel lbw b Weekes	95
K M Curran c and b Weekes	62
J N Snape c Pooley b Weekes	8
J E Emburey c Pooley b Weekes	0
J P Taylor c Weekes b Tufnell	2
†R J Warren c Brown b Tufnell	11
S A J Boswell not out	2
Extras (b1, lb5, w1, nb10)	17
Total (90.4 overs)	261

Fall (cont): 5-216, 6-238, 7-238, 8-245, 9-253.

Bowling: Fraser 14-1-41-0; Fay 10-1-47-0; Tufnell 36.4-9-79-3; Hewitt 10-1-27-3; Weekes 20-1-61-4.

Umpires: M J Kitchen and K J Lyons.

	P	W	L	D	Bat	Bwl	Tot
Yorkshire (8)	10	6	2	2	32	30	164
Leics (7)	9	5	1	3	29	31	149
Surrey (12)	10	4	1	5	33	36	148
Kent (18)	9	5	0	4	24	29	145
Derbyshire (14)	9	4	2	3	30	28	131
Middlesex (2)	10	4	4	2	17	35	122
Warwicks (1)	9	4	3	2	21	29	120
Essex (5)	9	3	2	4	30	27	117
Sussex (15)	9	4	3	2	17	27	114
Worcs (10)	9	2	3	4	20	32	96
Hampshire (13)	8	2	3	3	23	27	91
Lancashire (4)	9	1	2	6	28	24	86
Somerset (9)	8	2	3	3	15	30	86
Notts (11)	9	1	3	5	22	28	81
Glamorgan (16)	8	2	4	2	23	19	80
Northants (3)	9	1	5	3	19	28	72
Gloucs (6)	9	1	3	5	9	30	70
Durham (17)	11	0	7	4	17	40	69

1995 positions in brackets.

Tetley Challenge Series

Final day of three

Kent v Pakistan

CANTERBURY: Pakistan beat Kent by eight wickets.

Kent won toss

KENT – First Innings 262 (D P Fulton 58, T R Ward 58, M A Ealham 57; Wasim Akram 4-74).

PAKISTAN – First Innings 194 (Rashid Latif 61; M A Ealham 4-48).

KENT – Second Innings 200 (Saqlain Mushtaq 4-63).

PAKISTAN – Second Innings

Aamir Sohail c Cowdrey b Headley	30
Shadab Kabir c Ward b Cowdrey	84
Ijaz Ahmed not out	136
Asif Mujtaba not out	5
Extras (b8, lb4, nb2)	14
Total (for 2, 68.3 overs)	269

Fall: 1-54, 2-240.

Did not bat: Inzamam-ul-Haq, Salim Malik, *Wasim Akram, †Rashid Latif, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shahid Nazir, Ata-ur-Rehman.

Bowling: McCague 10-1-40-0; Headley 15-2-48-1; Ealham 10-3-29-0; Patel 18-5-66-0; Fleming 5-1-12-0; Llong 7-0-43-0; Cowdrey 3.3-0-19-1.

Umpires: J C Balderstone and D R Shepherd.

Tour Match

Final day of three

Somerset v South Africa A

TAUNTON: Somerset drew with South Africa A.

South Africa A won toss

SOMERSET – First Innings 301 (M N Lathwell 108, K A Parsons 62).

SOUTH AFRICA A – First Innings 509 for 7 dec (D N Crookes 155no, N Boje 89, J B Commins 73).

SOMERSET – Second Innings

(Overnight: 42 for 0)

M N Lathwell lbw b Crookes	32
M E Trescothick c Boje b Smith	55
K A Parsons c Crookes b Smith	5
*P D Bowler c Crookes b Klusener	32
S C Ecclestone c Crookes b Klusener	15
†P C L Holloway c Palframan b Smith	8
G D Rose not out	64
J I D Kerr c and b Gibbs	56
J D Batty lbw b Gibbs	0
A R Caddick not out	8
Extras (b8, lb11, w1, nb14)	34
Total (for 8, 90.5 overs)	309

Fall: 1-91, 2-91, 3-102, 4-142, 5-154, 6-163, 7-286, 8-286.

Did not bat: K J Shine.

Bowling: Smith 11.5-2-34-3; Klusener 27-7-95-2; Boje 18-5-58-0; Crookes 27-4-86-1; Gibbs 6-2-14-2; Pothas 1-0-5-0.

Umpires: J W Holder and A G T Whitehead.

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of three; 11.0 today): Bristol: Gloucestershire 308 for 3 dec (M G N Windows 81, N J Trainor 70, M P Hunt 77no, M J Cawdron 68no). Durham 44 for 0. Hove: Sussex 310 (J W Hall 92; M Amjad 7-103). Worcestershire 4 for 0. The Oval: Surrey 352 for 9 (J J Ward 67, B C Hollioake 21, A D Brown 57, J A Knott 54no) v Hampshire. Walmley CC: Essex 242 (T P Hodgson 52; G Welch 4-85). Warwickshire 126 for 1. Harrow: Middlesex 382 for 4 dec (D J Goodchild 100no, O A Shah 97, O C Nash 74 no, C M Gupte 61). Yorkshire 16 for 0. Cleethorpes: Nottinghamshire 365 for 7 (N A Gie 72, J R Wileman 63, M P Dowman 63) v Glamorgan. Bedford School: Northamptonshire 390 for 4 dec (A J Swann 112, T C Walton 87, K J Innes 66, M B Loye 60 no). Lancashire 56 for 0.

LEADING FIRST-CLASS AVERAGES

Batting

Qualification: Six innings

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	100	50	Ave
Saeed Anwar (Pak)	4	7	1	591	219*	3	1	98.50
S Lee (Som)	8	11	4	679	167*	2	5	97.00
S Ganguly (India)	9	14	6	762	136	3	4	95.25
G P Thorpe (Surrey)	10	19	4	1285	185	6	4	85.66
M G Bevan (Yorks)	10	18	3	1152	160*	3	8	76.80
K Greenfield (Sussex)	6	10	3	518	154*	3	1	74.00
J E R Gallian (Lancs)	7	14	3	730	312	2	2	66.36
S P Titchard (Lancs)	6	10	2	520	163	2	2	65.00
A J Hollioake (Surrey)	10	18	4	908	128	3	4	64.85
M A Butcher (Surrey)	10	20	2	1158	160	3	9	64.33

* denotes not out

Bowling

Qualification: 20 wickets

	Overs	M	Runs	W	5w	10w	Best	Ave
C Ambrose (N'hants)	115.3	27	307	24	4	1	6-55	12.79
Mushtaq Ahmed (Pak)	101.0	24	323	21	3	1	7-91	15.38
M A Ealham (Kent)	223.3	74	581	33	2	1	8-36	17.60
C A Walsh (Gloucs)	233.1	68	596	31	2	0	6-57	19.22
D R Law (Sussex)	184.0	29	649	29	2	0	5-33	22.37
M W Alleyne (Gloucs)	244.4	66	654	29	2	0	5-32	22.55
S M Pollock (Warks)	326.4	83	840	37	1	0	6-56	22.70
L Klusener (SA 'A')	136.2	29	457	20	1	0	5-74	22.85
C A Connor (Hants)	320.3	88	937	40	1	0	5-57	23.42
A J Harris (Derbys)	216.0	44	775	33	2	1	6-40	23.48
S J E Brown (Durham)	435.0	79	1341	56	4	0	6-77	23.94

Pakistan lifted by Ijaz

Cricket
DAVID LLEWELLYN
reports from Canterbury
Kent 262 & 200
Pakistan 194 & 269-2
Pakistan win by eight wickets

The Pakistanis were able to iron out the problems in their build-up to Thursday's first Test against England at Lord's on a shirt-front of a wicket with not a single crease to distract the batsmen from their task. There was a fearsome century from Ijaz Ahmed, who was obligingly allowed to bat himself into form and the confirmation, if any were needed, that Shadab Kabir is a fine prospect.

Kent paid for some poor batting which left a straightforward target, one which Ijaz's power play reduced to inadequacy in his 163-ball innings. There were four thumping sixes, the last of which took the tourists to the total required with more than 20 of their allotted 90 overs remaining.

The result belied Kent's lofty position in the Championship table, but there were some bright spots, notably Graham Cowdrey's catch in the morning to dismiss Aamir Sohail. The celebrations were wild, but in the next session and a half Kent were tamed.

Ijaz muscled in and hustled around as he and Shadab smashed the Kent bowlers to all parts of the St Lawrence Ground in a fine second-wicket stand of 186.

It was a shame that Shadab could not stick around, but he became the unlikely victim of Cowdrey, who easily outdid his morning celebrations when Trevor Ward snapped up a catch at slip to send Shadab back into the pavilion after four hours out in the middle. His third half-century in four innings contained a dozen superbly struck boundaries and if Pakistan were not so confident that Saeed Anwar will have recovered from his stomach upset, he might well have been in with a chance.

The news is not so good for Waqar Younis. Having been reported to have recovered from a hamstring strain, his captain, Wasim Akram, let it be known that the fast bowler will need a strenuous work-out today to establish his level of fitness. Wasim said they did not wish to risk the injury at all and that Waqar had not yet proved he was 100 per cent fit.

Cork displays requisite bottle

JON CULLEY
reports from Old Trafford
Lancashire 587-9 dec & 174-3 dec
Derbyshire 473-8 dec & 289-8
Derbyshire win by two wickets

Having enjoyed almost two energy sapping days in the field at the start of this match, Derbyshire were rewarded for their patience with their third Championship victory in four – and fifth place in the table – although amid rather more anxiety than they can have envisaged at five o'clock.

At that point, with the minimum 16 overs left, Derbyshire were 204 for 2. With the outfield parched and the pitch providing no great assistance to Lancashire's spinners, the target of 289 offered by the home side's declaration at lunch looked well within their scope.

But the loss of five wickets for 20 runs changed the complexion of the match and Derbyshire were grateful that Dominic Cork had the confidence to take matters into his own hands. Scoring 34 runs off just 16 balls, the England strike bowler saw them home by two wickets with three balls to spare.

Coming in at 240 for 7 with less than six overs remaining, Cork announced himself with a six off the left-arm spinner, Gary Keedy, but it was against the same bowler in the penultimate over of 65 that he swung the balance Derbyshire's way, hitting two fours and a six among 17 runs, blotting his copybook only when an ill-judged call for a second run on a misfield caused Karl Krikken to be run out.

By then, however, only two were needed off the last six balls and it would have taken an exceptionally good over by Mike Watkinson to deny them.

Derbyshire's wobble followed the departure of their captain, Dean Jones, whose third century of the Championship came in a third-wicket partnership of 198 with his predecessor, Kim Barnett. Jones sent in Phil DeFreitas next, hoping the England all-rounder would continue in the vein of his 29-ball Sunday fifty, but the move not only backfired but had a domino effect.

Against friendly bowling earlier, John Crawley finished 97 not out, setting up the declaration in the absence of the England captain, Mike Atherton, who had been called as a witness in the Imran Khan libel hearing at the High Court.

England's return is no pie in the Sky

The prospect of further aftershocks following England's expulsion from the Five Nations' Championship has receded. Tonight in Cardiff, representatives of the four home unions, headed by their presidents, meet in Cardiff where they will discuss reinstating England, **writes David Llewellyn**.

That is an essential preliminary to what is to follow if the future of the Five Nations, and indeed northern hemisphere rugby, is to be safeguarded. If England are to be restored to the competition – and the negotiating powers of the Rugby Football Union president, John Richardson, and Cliff Brittle, the chairman of the executive, will be tested to the full – it should open the way for more prolonged – heated even – discussion on the issue of television broadcasting rights.

However, any talks will not come down simply to a matter of the RFU fobbing off the other four nations – always assuming France wants to come in for a share of the pot – with a hand-out from its £87.5m deal with BSkyB, expected to be around £40m.

At the root of it all is the vexed question of satellite television and its exclusivity. While England was happy to sell its rights for all matches, representative and club on English soil, to BSkyB, the other unions – France having secured its own deal, worth around £7m for each of the next three years – have so far eschewed the option of accepting some £96.5m from Sky.

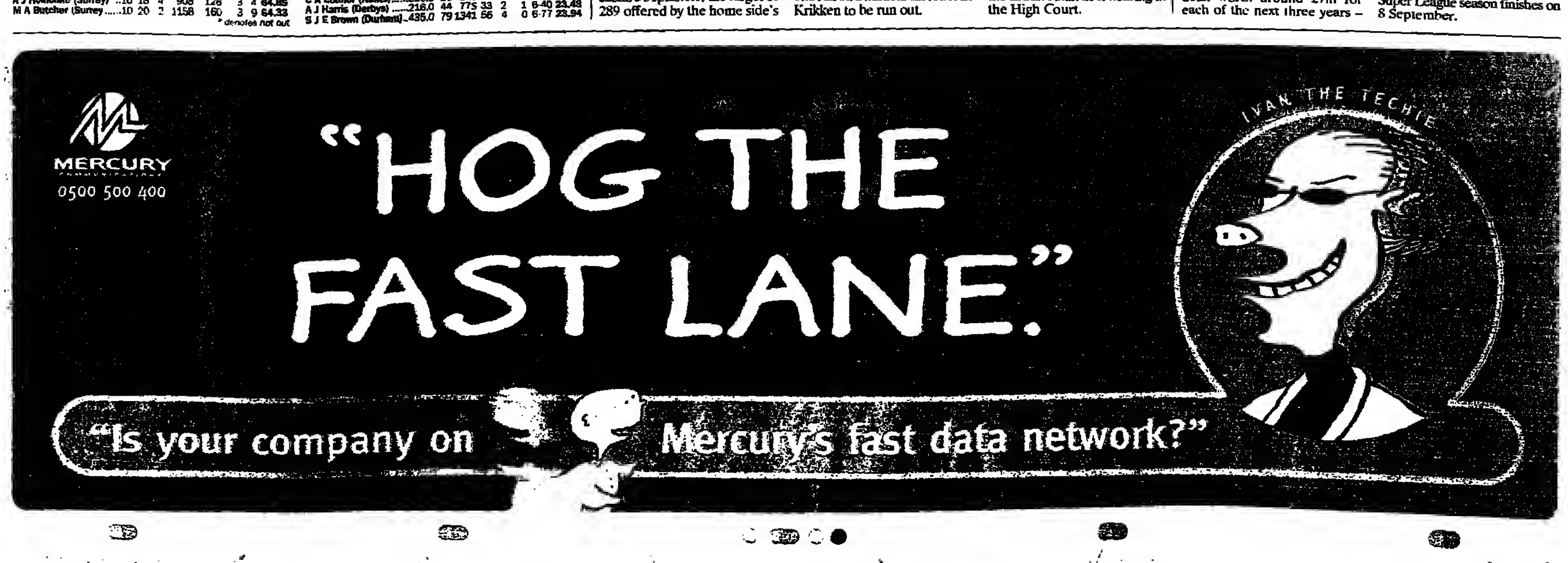
That sum may even be increased by Sky, which has offered Wales £40.5m and Ireland and Scotland £28m each. Were France to chip in its £21m, the split would approach £120m between the five, around £24m per year for the next five years.

If the other countries agree to this proposal, all that then remains is to work out a satisfactory compromise to allow terrestrial television a share of the Five Nations live broadcasting rights. The RFU thinks that Sky could be persuaded to grant rights for an even split for the 10 Five Nations matches.

That could well appease the Welsh, especially with the possibility of terrestrial television broadcasting live Wales versus England at Cardiff.

Sky's involvement in the game is unavoidable. Terrestrial television just has to find a way to compete in an open market and the game has to come to terms with the inevitable.

■ David Young, the Wales Rugby League captain, has been offered a £30,000 international squad contract by the WRU, making him the first player returning from the 13-a-side game to be given such a deal. Young, capped at union by Wales and the Lions, has joined Cardiff from Salford for £65,000 but cannot play until after the Super League season finishes on 8 September.



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Classic attempt to buck trend

Racing
SUE MONTGOMERY

A maximum of only 11 horses will line up for Britain's richest all-aged middle-distance race, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, at Ascot on Saturday. Although the field can undoubtedly justify a "small but select" tag – the Derby winner Shaamit, last year's runner-up Pentire, the Gold Cup hero Classic Cliche and Ireland's best four-year-old Oscar Schindler are among the acceptors – the fact that only two prospective runners are trained outside Britain emphasises the decline in the race's status as an international championship.

The 12-furlong race, established in 1951 and with a purse of £500,000 this year, used to be perceived as equal in prestige to the great autumn decider, the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. It was a multi-national contest which attracted runners from abroad (France, Italy, Germany, Ireland, the United States, Argentina, Japan, Belgium, New Zealand and Australia) as a matter of course, but lately has become little more than a domestic affair. The reason is the modern shift in emphasis from the early and middle part of the season to the end; the proliferation of rich prizes throughout the autumn, notably the Breeders' Cup series, means that connections of top-class foreign horses have become more inclined to rest them during the summer.

The first 27 runnings produced a score of Britain 13, Rest of Europe 14 (eight from France, five from Ireland and one from Italy), but since The Minstrel's victory in 1977 only one raider, St Jovite in 1992, has scored. The French used to run their best horses as a matter of course, but their last winner was Pawneese 20 years ago, and if her compatriot Swain turns out on Saturday – he will not if the ground is firm – he will be only the fourth from his country to do so in the 1990s.

The lowering of the King George's prestige is a shame because the test it provides is a fair one and it is more often than not won by the best horse in Europe. For quality in depth the Arc usually attracts the best field of the season, but for quality of winning performance racegoers at Ascot generally have best.

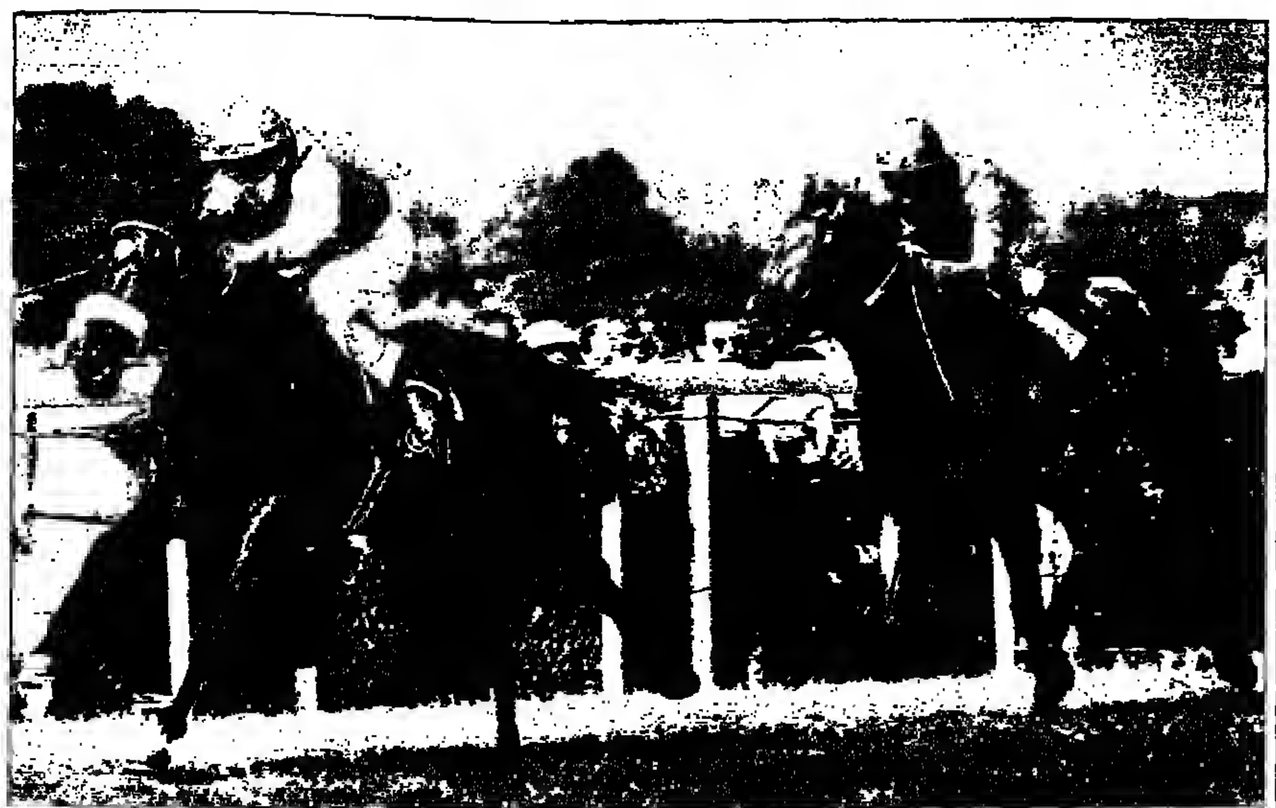
In the past 10 years five King George winners – Opera House, St Jovite, Generous, Nashwan and Reference Point – have achieved higher figures in the end-of-season International Classifications that the Arc winners of their year – Urban Sea, Subotica, Suave Dancer, Carroll House and Trempolino – two pairs (King's Theatre and Carnegie, Mtoto and Tony Bin) have been rated equal, and only Saumarez was judged better than his Ascot "oppo" Belmez. Lammtarra and Dancing Brave won both races.

Statistically, three-year-olds have an edge over their elders, having taken 25 of the 45 previous runnings. And of the 14 Derby winners to have competed in the year of their Classic triumph in the past quarter of a century, all but four have won, good news for the connections of Shaamit. But, unusually for an Epsom hero, he is likely not to start favourite, the last to have that dubious distinction being Snow Knight, who finished sixth to Dahlia in 1974.

If the weight of recent history favours Shaamit, one who will be trying to buck a trend is Classic Cliche. No Gold Cup winner has ever won a King George, and it is rare to even find a horse to go on from one to the other. Blakeney was second in both in 1970; 11 years before that Alcide, beaten a whisker in the stayers' race, became the only Gold Cup runner to successfully revert to the shorter distance. Sheikh Mohammed has already re-written the modern rule-books with the campaigns he plans for his horses, and it is greatly to his credit that Classic Cliche is to be given the opportunity to demonstrate his versatility.

With Michael Kinane partnering the Godolphin runner, Richard Hughes has picked up the ride on the Hardwicke Stakes winner Oscar Schindler for Kevin Prendergast. Hughes will travel to Ireland on Thursday to become acquainted with the colt.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Crimson Rosella (Yarmouth 4.45)
NB: Micheradn (Worcester 4.00)



Regal rematch: Pentire beats Classic Cliche in last year's King Edward VII Stakes at Royal Ascot. The pair renew rivalry over the same terrain in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes on Saturday Photograph: Sporting Life

Latest betting on Saturday's King George at Ascot

Horse	Coral	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Tote
Pentire	9-4	9-4	2-1	9-4
Shaamit	11-4	11-4	11-4	3-1
Classic Cliche	7-2	9-2	9-2	11-2
Swain (with a run)	5-1	6-1	5-1	9-2
Strategic Choice	6-1	11-2	6-1	6-1
Farasso	10-1	9-1	9-1	11-1
Oscar Schindler	14-1	12-1	14-1	10-1
Luso	25-1	12-1	20-1	14-1
Singspiel	20-1	20-1	20-1	16-1
Song Of Tara	33-1	33-1	25-1	33-1
Annus Mirabilis	50-1	50-1	66-1	50-1

Investigation into Davis tragedy

An investigation will be held into the death of the jockey Richard Davis. The Jockey Club announced yesterday that four officials would be discussing all the factors that led to the tragedy. The investigation committee will be chaired by Robert Waley-Cohen, a racecourse steward.

An inquest into Davis's death will be opened and adjourned in Newark today. Davis's funeral will take place at Earl's Croome church, in Worcestershire, at noon on Friday.

United give Yugoslav trial period

Football
CATHERINE RILEY

Manchester United are giving trials to Partisan Belgrade's 17-year-old midfielder Marco Marcovic. The teenager has attracted the attention of several top European clubs, but has been offered the opportunity of a possible permanent Old Trafford deal if he can sufficiently impress in the next fortnight.

"This is a wonderful chance for me, Manchester United are one of the biggest clubs in world football and to be here is a tremendous thrill," Marcovic said. "I'm not looking too far ahead, all I can do is give it my best shot and see what happens."

Alan Shearer, the Blackburn Rovers striker, is to meet with the Ewood Park club over newspaper speculation that he is set to leave. He has been linked with Manchester United, Newcastle and several Italian clubs.

"I have been made aware of some newspaper stories of the past two or three weeks and will doubtless have a chat with chairman Robert Coar when I return to training at the end of the week to find out the reality behind the headlines," Shearer said yesterday.

Birmingham City are selling the striker Paul Peschisolido and the midfielder Richard Forsyth as they attempt to raise £1m to buy Blackburn's Mike Newell.

Peschisolido will end a second spell at St Andrews by joining First Division rivals West Bromwich Albion for £600,000, only four months after returning to Birmingham, who expect to receive £200,000 from Forsyth's pending move to Stoke.

Southampton's long-serving midfielder Neil Maddison may stay at The Dell if a Football League tribunal puts a disputed transfer out of the reach of Crystal Palace today.

Maddison has agreed personal terms with the Palace manager, Dave Bassett, but there is disagreement over the transfer fee. Since the transfer is conditional, Palace can back out if the tribunal supports Saints' claim.

The Southampton manager, Graeme Souness, has lined up two new signings after holding talks with midfielders Graham Potter of Stoke and Palle Sorensen of the Danish club Aarhus.

The Leicester City manager, Martin O'Neill, is trying to prise two players from his old club, Norwich City. O'Neill, who left Carrow Road last December, made a £1m bid for Darren Eadie and signed the defender Justin Harrington on a free transfer.

Paul Parker, the former England defender, will not be joining Portsmouth for their pre-season build-up. Parker trained with Portsmouth last week after being freed by Manchester United, but returned home without signing.

The Football League have condemned the decision of the Plymouth chairman, Dan McCauley, to charge journalists to watch matches at Home Park. McCauley is taking the move after blaming criticism from the local Press for his decision to put the newly promoted Second Division club up for sale.

Andy Williamson, the League's assistant secretary, said: "Ironically, this season we have issued guidelines to football clubs for the very first time about media relations. This move by Mr McCauley rather flies in the face of all that, although it's the clubs' prerogative to determine their own arrangements."

Rangers' security chief, Alistair Hood, remains sanguine about next month's visit to Chechnya. Walter Smith's side face Alania Vladikavkaz in the preliminary round of the Champions' League, and the second leg in Vladikavkaz has aroused concern over both the conflict and a diphtheria outbreak.

Hood has just returned from Russia and said any problems can be overcome. "As far as the war is concerned, I understand the fighting is 50 miles east of Vladikavkaz. I was told if it is to spread, it would spread eastwards. There has been an outbreak of diphtheria but the players will receive inoculations against that and tetanus as well."

land's return is
pie in the Sky

YARMOUTH

HYPERION
2.15 Thordis — 3.45 SHANGHAI GIRL (nap)
2.45 Surprise Event — 4.15 Bahamian Bounty
3.15 Lear Express — 4.45 Crimson Rosella

GOING: Firm (watering).
STALLS: Straight – stands' side; rest – inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f to 1m.None.
■ Left-hand course, level and fair.
■ Course is N of town on A149. Yarmouth station 1m. ADMISSION: Club £12; Tattersalls £8.50; Family and course enclosure £4.50. CAR PARK: £1. Left-hand course.

SIS | RACING CHANNEL

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: H Thomson Jones – 30 winners from 83 runners at a ratio of 24.1% giving a return to a £1 level stake of +£41.16; J Gosden – 20 winners, 85 runners, 23.5%, +£2.32; C Brittain – 20 winners, 150 runners, 13.3%, +£38.46; H Cecil – 18 winners, 85 runners, 21.2%, -£33.74; M Bell – 14 winners, 84 runners, 16.7%, -£1.35; M Ryan – 10 winners, 97 runners, 10.3%, -£32.00; D Loder – 8 winners, 41 runners, 18.5%, -£3.09.
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: R Hills – 33 winners, 144 rides, 22.2%, +£47.02; L Dettori – 26 winners, 132 rides, 19.7%, -£44.38; M Hills – 26 winners, 156 rides, 16.8%, -£4.43; W Ryan – 22 winners, 132 rides, 16.7%, -£38.13; P Robinson – 22 winners, 150 rides, 14.7%, -£18.51; G Duffield – 18 winners, 117 rides, 15.4%, +£24.48.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Princely Sound (visored, 3.45).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Surprise Event (2.45) sent 255 miles from W Turner's Corton Denham stable in Somerset; Cross Of Valour (3.45) sent 227 miles from J Toller's Whitsbury stable in Hampshire; Ramsey Hope (3.45) sent 219 miles from C Fairhurst's Middleham stable in North Yorkshire; Thordis (2.15) sent 201 miles from P Makin's Ogbourne Maisey stable in Wiltshire; Code Red (4.45) sent 190 miles from J Hills's Lambourn stable in Berkshire; Silca's My Key (2.45) sent 190 miles from M Channon's Upper Lambourn stable in Berkshire; Bold Classic (4.45) sent 188 miles from J Dunlop's Arundel stable in West Sussex; Gymcrak Flyer (2.15) sent 182 miles from G Holmes's Newton-On-Rawcliffe stable in North Yorkshire; Tirol's Treasure (2.45) sent 130 miles from K Ivory's Radlett stable in Hertfordshire.

2.15 SCRATBY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,100 added 7f 3yds Penalty Value £3,629

1 400511 WILD PALM (20) (C) (D) (S Fustok) W O'Gorman 4 10 0 ... Emma O'Gorman 3 V
2 521-254 THORDIS (12) (Dame C Whitehouse) P Makin 3 9 8 ... S Sanders 1
3 340011 GYMCRAK FLYER (12) (D) (Gymcrak Racing Club) G Holmes 5 9 7 ... Dean McKeown 6
4 415-442 RED ADMIRAL (19) (C) (Sackville House Racing) C Murray 6 9 8 ... M Tebbutt 4
5 313554 AWESOME VENTURE (20) (D) (Market Rasen Club) M Chapman 6 8 7 ... D R McCabe 2
– 5 declared –

BETTING: 9-4 Thordis, 11-4 Wild Palm, 7-2 Gymcrak Flyer, 11-2 Awesome Venture, 7-1 Red Admiral
1995: Khatim 3 9 2 R Hills 12-1 (H Thomson Jones) 8 ran

FORM GUIDE
This first try over the trip should be just the ticket for THORDIS, who has done all his racing at six furlongs. Peter Makin's three-year-old, a winner at Leicester last October on his third and final appearance of 1995, ran his best race so far this term on his reappearance when a five-length second behind Hoh Returns at Doncaster in May. Thordis was not discredited next time when fifth (of nine) to U-No-Harry at Lingfield, a course which did not suit, and ran on when a fair fourth in La Petite Fusee's race at Chepstow 12 days ago. Wild Palm and Gymcrak Flier must be respected as they are both on hat-tricks. Wild Palm, who went in on good to soft at Nottingham last season, also handles a fast surface and returned to winning form in an apprentices' event at Newmarket last month Unpenalised for that, Wild Palm followed up and rates the chief threat off a 6lb higher mark. Gymcrak Flyer loves firm going and has scored twice each season for the past three years. Selection: THORDIS.

2.45 ELIZABETH SIMPSON SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £3,000 added 2YO 7f 3yds Penalty Value £2,259

1 05316 RONS REVENGE (7) (D) (A S Reid) M Ryan 9 2 ... G Bardwell 6
2 033 SILCA'S MY KEY (13) (Aldridge Racing Limited) M Channon 8 11 ... R Hughes 3
3 033 SURPRISE EVENT (7) (BF) (H G Cornell & Son Ltd) W Turner 8 11 ... R Havlin (5) 5
4 0 BOLD MOTION (13) (Four Score Racing) C Murray 8 6 ... M Baird (5) 4
5 056 SHARAZAMATAZ (8) (Mrs Marion E Southcott) W Haggas 8 6 ... S Sanders 1
6 TIROL'S TREASURE (Mrs Valerie Hubbard) K Ivory 8 6 ... B Doyle 2
– 6 declared –

BETTING: 6-4 Surprise Event, 7-4 Silca's My Key, 7-1 Rons Revenge, 8-1 Sharazamataz, 14-1 Tirol's Treasure, 33-1 Bold Motion
1995: Crimson And Clover 2 8 6 M Hills 6-4 (M Bell) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE
Favourite when third behind previous scorer Barnwood Crackers and Spondulicks over today's trip at Brighton a week ago, beaten a short head and 1¼ lengths, SURPRISE EVENT had also taken minor honours on his preceding start against Without Friends at Chepstow. Bill Turner's juvenile can recoup losses with Peter Chapple-Hyam's good 5lb-claimer Robert Havlin booked for the ride. Rons Revenge made virtually all and held on determinedly at Beverley this month with Silca's My Key staying on into third little more than a length back. Rons Revenge finished 19 lengths behind Surprise Event at Brighton and Silca's My Key, who meets him 5lb better, should reverse the Beverley running, especially as he has turned in an improved display since in finishing third behind Buzzby at Newmarket. He could give the selection plenty to do. Selection: SURPRISE EVENT

3.15 MEDLER MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100 added 1m 3f 101yds Penalty Value £3,629

1 0462 LADY OF LEISURE (USA) (56) (Mrs Anna L Sanders) Mrs J Cecil 4 9 4 ... T Ives 3
2 42 LEAR EXPRESS (19) (BF) (The Thoroughbred Corporation) H Cecil 3 8 12 ... Pat Eddery 4
3 5035 ROYAL ACTION (29) (E Carter) J Banks 3 8 12 ... J Stack 5
4 WELCOME PARADE (K Abdulla) H Cecil 3 8 12 ... W Ryan 2
5 0 PARTITA (17) (Saeed Manana) C Brittain 3 8 7 ... B Doyle 1
– 5 declared –

BETTING: 4-7 Lear Express, 8 Welcome Parade, 5 Lady Of Leisure, 8 Royal Action, 20 Partita
1995: Ack's Again 3 8 7 M Hills 14-1 (B W Hills) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE
LEAR EXPRESS should outgun his rivals. This US-bred horse, an $80,000 yearling, drifted from 6-1 to twice those odds when a five-length fourth of 13 to Lakeline Legend on his introduction at last month and showed the benefit of the experience when market leader and running the more experienced Qasada (who was dropped in class and in distance) to a neck over the trip here 19 days ago. Pat Eddery take the mount for the first time on the selection, who has been ridden by Willie Ryan in both his races so far. Ryan now teams up with stablemate Welcome Parade, a Generous colt making his debut. Welcome Parade is the second foal of the Shareef Dancer mare Jubilee Trail, whose first offspring was the useful Peace Envoy. Lady Of Leisure, from Julie Cecil's yard, ran her best race from four attempts when beaten 1¼ lengths by Alreeh at Redcar in May. Selection: LEAR EXPRESS

3.45 NORTH WALSHAM HANDICAP (CLASS C) £8,000 added 3YO 6f 3yds Penalty Value £5,796

1 1126-06 MAZEED (63) (D) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) H Thomson Jones 9 7 ... R Hills 8
2 412 SHANGHAI GIRL (33) (D) (BF) (Wafic Said) D Loder 9 3 ... R Hughes 2
3 1-02432 SYLVA PARADISE (31) (D) (Eddy Grimstead Honda) C Brittain 9 1 ... B Doyle 4
4 01 CROSS OF VALOUR (25) (D) (P C J Dalby) J Toller 8 11 ... S Sanders 3
5 020020 RAMSEY HOPE (19) (D) (BF) (C D Barber-Lomax) C Fairhurst 8 1 ... N Kennedy 1 9
8 061055 PRINCELY SOUND (11) (D) (G W Byrne) M Bell 7 13 ... R Mullen (7) 5 V
– 6 declared –

BETTING: 7-4 Shanghai Girl, 5-2 Sylva Paradise, 11-2 Mazeed, 13-2 Princely Sound, 8-1 Cross Of Valour, Ramsey Hope
1995: Bowden Rose 3 8 5 Stephen Davies 4-1 (M Blanshard) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE
Shanghai Girl went off at 5-2 on when making her debut at Lingfield (Equitrack) in February, but dropped away to finish last of four to Docklands Limo after leading briefly nearing three out. David Loder's filly overcame a three-month absence when a length and three-quarters too good for Bollin Joanne (who has run well in both races since) at Redcar in May. The favourite at Ripon last time, Shanghai Girl was forced to give best nearing the line after a great set-to with WhittleRock and went down a length and a quarter. She can improve but may have to play second fiddle again here, this time behind SYLVA PARADISE. Clive Brittain's colt, who wound up with a Folkestone (soft) victory last term, also handles a fast surface and ran Midnight Escape to a head to a much hotter heat than this over the stiff five at Ascot last time, and is only 4lb higher today. His three previous races this year were at seven furlongs and this six could be just right. Sylva Paradise finished more than three lengths in front of Mazeed (who drifted from 16-1 to 33-1) when they were third and sixth of 12 to King Of Peru at Goodwood (7f) in May and can confirm the form on 8lb less favourable terms. Cross Of Valour was racing for only the second time when landing a Folkestone maiden auction last month and should progress further, but Sylva Paradise is expected to have his measure at a difference of only 4lb. Princely Sound, successful twice on the Lingfield Equitrack early this year and a Chester scorer in May, hasn't shown much lately but could be prominent in the first-time visor. Selection: SYLVA PARADISE

4.15 EBF SCROBY SANDS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2YO 5f 43yds Penalty Value £3,460

1 2 BAHAMIAN BOUNTY (12) (Lucayan Stud) D Loder 9 0 ... R Hughes 4
2 230330 CASTLE ASHBY JACK (13) (Mrs Caroline Loke) P Howling 9 0 ... Paul Eddery 6 V
3 MAGYAR TITOK (Mrs Judit Woods) Bob Jones 8 0 ... N Day 1
4 0 BREFFNI (13) (Dermot Partnership) C Allen 8 9 ... T 8 McLaughlin 8
5 VALENTINE FAIRY (Mrs Eileen Williams) R Boss 8 9 ... Pat Eddery 2
– 5 declared –

BETTING: 2-7 Bahamian Bounty, 9-2 Valentine Fairy, 12-1 Castle Ashby Jack, 16-1 Magyar Titok, 33-1 Breffni
1995: Stop Play 2 8 9 P Robinson 7-4 (M H Tompkins) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE
BAHAMIAN BOUNTY looks a safe wager to go one better after his tremendous effort first time up in running Grapeshot to a neck at Newmarket 12 days ago. Up front throughout, David Loder's Cadeaux Genereux colt was worn down close to home and is certain to progress. His dam is from the family of Stiwa. The other pair with experience have shown little and second place can go to Ron Boss's debutante Valentine Fairy, a daughter of the same stable's Access Travel. Selection: BAHAMIAN BOUNTY

4.45 BELTON MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,100 added 1m 6f 17yds Penalty Value £3,960

1 3455-53 MANSUR (22) (Michael Worth) D Loder 4 8 13 ... D R McCabe 4
2 45-042 BOLD CLASSIC (28) (Mrs H Focke) J Dunlop 3 9 8 ... Pat Eddery 6
3 420 CLASSIC COLLEEN (27) (Classic Bloodstock Plc) R Hannon 3 9 8 ... A Mackay 2
4 0460 ARKTIKOS (12) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 3 9 3 ... G Hind 7
5 06535 CODE RED (32) (Abdulla Al Khalifa) J Hills 3 8 12 ... R Hills 5
6 00-4406 JUNIOR BEN (17) (B R Allen) P Howling 4 8 9 ... Paul Eddery 3
7 6-06603 CRIMSON ROSELLA (6) (Mrs P O Rosedale) W Haggas 3 8 1 ... S Sanders 1
– 7 declared –

BETTING: 9-4 Bold Classic, 3-1 Crimson Rosella, 4-1 Junior Ben, 9-2 Arktikos, 5-1 Mansur, 13-2 Code Red
1995: Invest Wisely 3 9 13 R Cochrane 5-2 (J M P Eustace) 7 ran

FORM GUIDE
The best of BOLD CLASSIC is yet to come and he looks the answer here on his first venture into handicap company. John Dunlop's three-year-old finished 11 lengths clear of the third when a five-length runner-up behind Hal Hoo Yaroom over course and distance four weeks ago and he will have Pat Eddery's assistance for the first time. It has been difficult to fathom Crimson Rosella's best distance. Starting over six furlongs this season, she has been tried at seven furlongs, a mile and a quarter and, last time, a mile and half at Folkestone, where she didn't do badly in taking the minor position behind Nikita's Star. Willie Haggas steps her up in distance yet again here, and although she is half-sister to Mr Brooks (who was a smart sprinter) among others, she might well last the trip out. Junior Ben and Mansur have had their chances, but could go well here. Selection: BOLD CLASSIC

WORCESTER

HYPERION
2.00 Big Treat 2.30 Supermodel 3.00 Evangelica 3.30 Jawani (nb) 4.00 Micherado 4.30 King's Shilling

GOING: Good to firm (watering).
■ Left-hand course, level with long straights, easy turns and a one furlong run-in.
■ Course is on the A443 by the River Severn. Worcester (Foregate St) station 1m. ADMISSION: Members £12.50; Tattersalls £8.50; Course £5 (OAPs £2.50). CAR PARK: Free; picnic area parking £2.50.

SIS | RACING CHANNEL

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Supermodel (visored, 2.30).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Liberty James (2.00) sent 143 miles from Mrs E Brooks Monkleigh stable in Devon; Jawani (3.30) sent 132 miles from Dr J D Scargill's Newmarket stable in Suffolk; Maronetta (2.30) sent 132 miles from M Ryan's Newmarket stable in Suffolk; Bowland Park (2.00) sent 128 miles from E Alston's Longton stable in Lancashire.

2.00 LINCOMB MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 4f

1 024300- LIBERTY JAMES (297) Mrs E Brooks 9 11 5 ... B Upton
2 00F000- SOMMERSBY (52) Mrs N Macauley 5 11 5 ... R Dunwoody
3 06F04-3 BIG TREAT (38) P Hiatt 4 11 2 ... E Husband (3)
4 30-2 BORN TO PLEASE (45) P Hobbs 4 11 2 ... A P McCoy
5 0-56 CARNIVAL CLOWN (24) K Bishop 4 11 2 ... R Greene
6 5 EWAR IMPERIAL (23) K C-Brown 4 11 2 ... D Gallagher
7 006- BOWLAND PARK (175) E Alston 5 11 0 ... P Niven
8 ITS A MYTH A Chamberlain 7 11 0 ... B Powell
9 3 MURBERRY (24) Mrs I McKie 6 11 0 ... L Harvey
10 0P052-P UP THE TEMPO (45) Paddy Farrell 7 11 0 ... Mr J Culloty (3)
– 10 declared –

BETTING: 5-4 Born To Please, 4-1 Big Treat, 9-2 Murberry, 8-1 Sommersby, 10-1 Up The Tempo, 14-1 Liberty James, 16-1 others

2.30 HUDDINGTON NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m

1 035530- AT THE ACORN (136) Noel T Chance 5 10 12 ... R Johnson
2 P0/04-20 BETABETCORBETT (10) B Baugh 5 10 12 ... T Eley
3 48- COUNT OF FLANDERS (158) K Morgan 8 10 12 ... A S Smith
4 51-44 SUPERMODEL (20) Mrs N Macauley 4 10 11 ... R Dunwoody V
5 MILLION DANCER M Pipe 4 10 9 ... D Bridgwater
8 0- WET PATCH (242) R Hannon 4 10 9 ... N Williamson
7 435- MARONETTA (69) M Ryan 4 10 4 ... J Ryan
– 7 declared –

BETTING: 5-2 Count of Flanders, 11-4 Million Dancer, 5-1 Supermodel, Maronetta, 8-1 At The Acorn, 8-1 Wet Patch, 14-1 Betabetcorbett

3.00 RACING CHANNEL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 7f

1 11221-1 EVANGELICA (USA) (13) (CD) M Pipe 6 11 10 ... D Bridgwater
2 F2151-1 WATERFORD CASTLE (24) (CD) K Bailey 9 11 9 ... T J Murphy (3)
3 10050-5 TOUR LEADER (NZ) (38) R Buckler 7 10 1 ... B Powell
– 3 declared –

BETTING: 4-5 Waterford Castle, 11-10 Evangelica, 12-1 Tour Leader

3.30 HAWKERS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 3m

1 /11/412- JAWANI (248) (D) Dr J Scargill 8 12 0 ... R Dunwoody
2 25043/-0 GREEN LANE (USA) (26) (C) J Joseph 8 11 8 ... C Llewellyn
3 3/12622- STORMTRACKER (61) (CD) C Weedon 7 11 1 ... M Brennan (5)
4 55020P- SAME DIFFERENCE (74) (D) K Burke 8 10 13 ... A Larnach
5 552110- THE BLACK MONK (62) M Pipe 8 10 5 ... D Bridgwater
6 022225- QUIET DAWN (57) J King 10 10 0 ... A P McCoy
7 00P6-12 DARINGLY (20) (BF) R Curtis 7 10 0 ... D Morris
– 7 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Quiet Dawn 9st 4lb, Daringly 8st 5lb.
BETTING: 6-4 Jawani, 7-2 The Black Monk, 4-1 Stormtracker, 9-2 Green Lane, 12-1 Same Difference, Daringly, 14-1 Quiet Dawn

4.00 HEREFORD AND WORCESTER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £5,000 added 2m

1 43P23/0- MERLINS WISH (397) (CD) M Pipe 7 12 0 ... D Bridgwater
2 352P1-2 MICHERADO (FR) (38) S Brookshaw 6 11 6 ... R Johnson
3 F4P4-50 SYDNEY BARRY (NZ) (5) R Buckler 11 11 4 ... B Powell
4 505P5-0 HUGH DANIELS (84) B Preece 8 10 11 ... Gary Lyons
5 4121F3- CYRILL HENRY (237) (D) Simon Earle 7 10 5 ... C Maude
6 P/I/040- ASTOUNDED (57) O Wintle 8 10 4 ... W Marston
7 0030-53 MAGGOTS GREEN (4) (D) J Bradley 9 10 0 ... A P McCoy
– 7 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Maggots Green 9st 12lb.
BETTING: 9-4 Micherado, 11-4 Merlins Wish, 5-1 Astounded, 7-1 Cyril Henry, 8-1 Sydney Barry, Maggots Green, 10-1 Hugh Daniels

4.30 CHAMPAGNE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2m

1 1236U-0 BATTY'S ISLAND (34) (D) B Preece 7 12 0 ... D Finnegan (7)
2 11214-3 OUT RANKING (FR) (13) (CD) M Pipe 4 11 8 ... D Bridgwater
3 245/06-6 KING'S SHILLING (13) (CD) H Oliver 9 11 8 ... M Brennan (5)
4 0/33300- MR SNAGGLE (226) (D) Simon Earle 7 11 6 ... C Maude
5 631141- PAIR OF JACKS (62) (D) T Naughton 6 10 8 ... A P McCoy
6 P/6450-2 EL GRANDO (13) K C-Brown 6 10 8 ... D Gallagher
– 6 declared –

BETTING: 2-1 Pair Of Jacks, 7-2 El Grando, 4-1 Out Ranking, 5-1 King's Shilling, 8-1 Mr Snaggle, Batty's Island

Hat-trick scored at Musselburgh

Football and racing history were made simultaneously at Musselburgh yesterday afternoon with a hat-trick of victories by horses whose connections are former football internationals.

Mick Channon, Francis Lee and Kevin Keegan, who between them represented England on 136 occasions, were all directly involved in turn with the successes of Victoria's Secret, Encore M'Lady and Bride's Reprisal, the winners of the first three races on the card. In fact, it was a double strike for Channon as he also trains the last named filly for Keegan's wife Jean.

Neither Channon nor Lee was present to witness the event. But Keegan had flown up from the Newcastle United's training ground by helicopter together with his assistant Terry McDermott and club captain Peter Beardsley.

"This must be a first, three ex-soccer players being associated with different winning horses on the same card," Keegan said after Bride's Reprisal, also bred by his wife, had won the 3.15.

Keegan went on: "Mick, Franny and I were all at one time in the same England squad under Alf Ramsey's management. It was in the early 1970s, leading up to the 1974 World Cup for which England unfortunately failed to qualify after being beaten by Poland."

Lee, the Manchester City chairman, scored only his second winner of 1996 when Encore M'Lady won the 2.45.

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RACING RESULTS

MUSSELBURGH

2.15: 1. VICTORIA'S SECRET (T Quinn) 5-2; 2. Atienza 9-2; 3. Phar Closer 14-1. 4 ran. 10-11 fav The Great Flood (4th). 10, 2½. (M Channon, Upper Lambourn). Tote: £2.70. DF: £4.20. CSF: £11.04.

2.45: 1. ENCORE M'LADY (J Fanning) 14-1; dead heat 2. Don Pepe 3-1 Jt fav; &2. Shontaine 6-1. 8 ran. 3-1 Jt fav Intendant (4th). ½, dead heat. (F Lee, Wilmslow). Tote: £14.40; £3.40 Don Pepe, £1.80 Shontaine, £2.20. DF: Encore M'Lady & Don Pepe £17.20, Encore M'Lady & Shontaine £23.50. CSF: Encore M'Lady & Don Pepe £25.88, Encore M'Lady & Shontaine £42.17.

3.15: 1. BRIDE'S REPRISAL (T Quinn) 8-13 fav; 2. Under Pressure 3-1; 3. Red Romance 5-1. 4 ran. 3, 3½. (M Channon, Upper Lambourn). Tote: £1.30. DF: £1.90. CSF: £2.87.

3.45: 1. ANAK-KU (T Quinn) 8-11 fav; 2. Nkapen Rocks 7-4; 3. School of Science 50-1. 6 ran. 4, 14. (Gay Kelleway, Whitcombe). Tote: £1.40; £1.10, £1.10. DF: £1.40. CSF: £2.28. NR: Aye Ready.

4.15: 1. FOXES TAIL (N Carlisle) 1-3 fav; 2. Imperial Or Metric 6-1; 3. Keen To Please 9-1. 3 ran. 1, 5. (S Hall, Middleham). Tote: £1.30; £1.20, £1.50. DF: £4.30. CSF: £3.28.

4.45: 1. FORZARA (J Carroll) 3-1; 2. China Hand 6-4 fav; 3. Young Ben 20-1. 5 ran. 3, ½. (J Berry, Cockerham). Tote: £4.10; £3.60, £1.10. DF: £4.00. CSF: £7.67.

Placepot: £9.60. Quadpot: £2.40.
Place 6: £17.83. Place 5: £3.55.

SOUTHWELL

2.30: 1. CATHERINE'S CHOICE (J Weaver) 20-1; 2. La Tansani 9-1; 3. Theatre Magic 12-1. 16 ran. 9-2 fav Roar On Tour. 2½, 5. (J Bethell, Middleham). Tote: £35.30; £7.70, £3.30, £3.40. DF: £156.40. CSF: £182.72. Trio: £360.50; part won, £462.13 carried forward to Worcester 2.00 today.

3.00: 1. INTIMAAM (D Harrison) 25-1; 2. Precedency 33-1; 3. Uncle Oswald 5-4 fav. 8 ran. ½, 1½. (Mrs A Swinbank, Richmond). Tote: £32.30; £4.40, £5.10, £1.30. DF: £207.80. CSF: £460.41. Trio: £203.90; part won, £258.57 carried forward to Worcester 2.00 today.

3.30: 1. SHIRLEY SUE (J Weaver) 3-1 fav; 2. Breydon 9-1; 3. Top Prize 9-1. 14 ran. 18, 2. (M Johnston, Middleham). Tote: £4.10; £1.40, £2.30, £3.90. DF: £65.50. CSF: £30.41. Tricast: £212.83. Trio: £106.70.

4.00: 1. YOUNG ANNABEL (T Ives) 9-2; 2. Princess Efisio 4-1; 3. Cedar Girl 25-1. 16 ran. 3½, 1. (C Dwyer, Newmarket). Tote: £5.80; £1.10, £2.00, £10.60, £1.50. DF: £56.90. CSF: £24.27. Tricast: £415.95. Trio: £311.60.

4.30: 1. COMMON ROCK (Dale Gibson) 25-1; 2. Bonsiel 8-1; 3. Hopperetta 3-1. 6 ran. 1-2 fav Clonavon Girl (5th). ½, nk. (J Norton, Barnsley). Tote: £29.10; £6.20, £3.40. DF: £52.20. CSF: £146.19.

5.00: 1. TROUBADOUR SONG (P McCabe) 13-8 fav; 2. Statajack 2-1; 3. Steve's Wonder 7-2. 8 ran. 4, 8. (W Haigh, Malton). Tote: £2.60; £1.10, £1.10, £2.40. DF: £2.00. CSF: £5.49. NR: Tempering. Trio: £5.40.

5.30: 1. FIABA (C Teague) 16-1; 2. Disco Boy 16-1; 3. Fighter Squadron 14-1. 16 ran. 3-1 fav Lady Silk (5th). 2, 3. (N Macauley, Melton Mowbray). Tote: £26.10; £8.30, £8.80, £4.50, £2.20. DF: £437.30. CSF: £248.44. Tricast: £1,948.04. Trio: £401.40; part won, £508.84 carried forward to Worcester 2.00 today.

Placepot: £1,148.60. Quadpot: £32.40.
Place 6: £615.08. Place 5: £71.82.

BEVERLEY

6.15: 1. PICKENS (R Cochrane) 7-2; 2. North Bear 7-2; 3. Ballos 7-2. 7 ran. 5-2 fav Veshca Lady (4th). ½, nk. (N Tinkler). Tote: £4.70; £2.00, £3.10. DF: £20.40. CSF: £16.40. NR: Elpida.

6.40: 1. MOUNT KAMET (R Hughes) 8-11 fav; 2. Eurolink Excaliber 7-4; 3. Maradi 6-1. 8 ran. 5, 2. (D Loder). Tote: £2.00; £1.40, £1.10, £1.90. DF: £1.40. CSF: £2.96. Trio: £3.00. NR: Mutanadeth.

7.10: 1. DARLING CLOVER (R Cochrane) 2-1 fav; 2. Maid For Baileys 13-2; 3. Fairywings 4-1. 7 ran. ½, ½. (D Morley). Tote: £3.10; £1.70, £2.00. DF: £7.90. CSF: £15.32.

WINDSOR

6.25: 1. KRISTAL BREEZE (J Reid) 7-1; 2. Nothing Doing 6-1; 3. Elly Fleetfoot 8-1. 15 ran. 4-1 fav Aytar. 1½, hd. (W Muir). Tote: £7.00; £2.00, £2.20, £2.80. DF: £34.10. CSF: £43.00. Tricast: £309.62. Trio: £28.40.

6.55: 1. GUNNERS GLORY (B Doyle) 10-1; 2. Effervescence 7-4 fav; 3. Incatinka 25-1. 10 ran. Hd, 3. (B Meehan). Tote: £14.70; £3.20, £1.30, £6.20. DF: £16.20. CSF: £36.85. Trio: £213.70, part won; £30.10 carried forward to Wednesday.

SPORTING DIGEST

Baseball
AMERICAN LEAGUE: Baltimore 10 Boston 6 (10 innings); Cleveland 7 Minnesota 5; Toronto 5 Detroit 4 (12 innings); Milwaukee 3 New York Yankees 2; Chicago White Sox 8 Kansas City 3; Seattle 6 California 2; Oakland 11 Texas 8.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Pittsburgh 8 Cincinnati 4; Montreal 4 New York Mets 3; St Louis 8 Chicago Cubs 5 (10 innings); Houston 4 Atlanta 3 (10 innings); Los Angeles 7 San Francisco 6; Philadelphia 12 Florida 3; San Diego 2 Colorado 0.

Football
Frantisek Planicka, who captained the Czechoslovak team that finished second in the world championship held in Rome in 1934, has died aged 92. He was considered the best goalkeeper of the 1930s.
Jari Litmanen, the Finnish international, has extended his contract with Ajax for another two seasons.
MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER: Galaxy 3 MetroStars 0.

Golf
Veteran Willie Wood won the first victory of his career by shooting a final round five-under 67 for a one-shot win at the Deposit Guaranty Classic in Madison, Mississippi. Wood's finishing score of 20-under 268 edged out fellow American Kirk Triplett, who fired a four-under 68, finishing with an eagle on the 18th hole.
DEPOSIT GUARANTY CLASSIC (Madison, Mississippi) Leading final-round scores (US unless stated): 268 W Wood 68 67 66 67. 269 K Triplett 66 68 67 68. 271 S Hoch 69 69 68 65; G Kraft 69 68 69 71. 272 D Ogrin 69 68 69 66; P Blackmar 70 68 66 68; N Lancaster 70 67 66 69; D Edwards 68 67 66 71. 273 R Freeman 72 65 68 68. 274 S Jurgensen 68 68 69 69; 8 Watkins 68 65 68 73. 275 L Mattiace 69 70 69 67; G Day 70 67 70 68; 8 Fabel 68 68 70 69; 0 Toms 68 69 68 70. 276 S Gump 69 67 72 68; 8 Henninger 71 67 70 68; C Rose 69 69 68 70; M Dawson 71 66 69 70; M Sullivan 65 70 69 72.
BURNET SENIOR CLASSIC (Coon Rapids, Minnesota) Final-round scores (US unless stated; par-72): 205 V Fernandez 69 68 68. 206 8 Crampton 69 68 69; J C Snead 66 71 69. 207 R Floyd; 68 74 65. 208 0 Stockton; 69 70 69; J Jacobs 69 70 69; T Wargo; 68 69 71; J Colbert 73 69 70. 209 Walt Morgan 72 71 66; 7 Dill; 69 72 68; J Bland; 69 72 68; D Weaver 71 70 68; J Powell 65 74 70; J Schroeder 69 70 70; A Geiberger 69 68 72.
Dottie Pepper, struck an excellent approach shot and birdied the final hole on Sunday to overtake Brandie Burton and win the LPGA Friendly's Classic, her third victory in five weeks. Pepper won the Rochester International and the Shoprite Classic last month.
LPGA FRIENDLY'S CLASSIC (Agawam, Mass) Final-round scores (US unless stated): 279 D Pepper 68 69 73 69. 280 B Burton 67 72 66 75. 281 M Lunn 67 69 70 75. 285 A Sorenstam 69 72 72 73. 287 P Hurst 75 71 72 69. 289 B Daniel 72 70 75 72; M Morris 68 74 75 72; K Saiki 70 73 72 74; 8 Whitehead 72 68 74 75. 290 K Albers 73 73 73 71; 6 Hamlin 69 77 72 72; K Davies 74 70 74 72; C Chillemi 70 69 74 77.
PGA EUROPEAN TOUR VOLVO RANKINGS Leading positions: 1 C Montgomerie (Sco) £418,844; 2 I Woosnam (Wal) £357,938; 3 R Allenby (Aus) £283,551; 4 C Rocca (It) £253,337; 5 A Coltart (Sco) £226,886; 8 W Riley (Aus) £215,431; 7 P Harrington (Rep of Ire) £194,363; 6 S Ames (Trin) £193,584; 9 P Lawrie (Sco) £186,711; 10 R Goosen (SA) £175,101; 11 F Nobilo (NZ) £170,390; 12 P McGinley (Rep of Ire) £169,335; 13 J Payne (Eng) £150,430; 14 M A Jimenez (Sp) £149,180; 15 P Mitchell (Eng) £146,134; 16 M McNulty (Zim) £145,917; 17 R Russell (Sco) £143,190; 18 L Westwood (Eng) £140,820; 19 E Romero (Arg) £132,319; 20 D Clarke (N Irl) £127,415.
SONY RANKINGS Leading positions: 1 G Norman (Aus) 11.27 pts ave; 2 C Montgomerie (GB) 9.98; 3 E Els (SA) 9.74; 4 F Couples (US) 9.19; 5 N Faldo (GB) 8.96; 6 C Pavin 8.90; 7 T Lehman (US) 8.41; 8 M Ozaki (Japan) 8.33; 9 N Price (Zim) 8.27; 10 M O'Meara (US) 7.09. GB: 22 I Woosnam 4.62; 25 S Torrance (4.32); 48 B Lane 3.13.

Ice hockey
The Kingston Hawks have signed Michael Cavannah, the 26-year-old Canadian defence man, who joins the Hawks from North American hockey having played in the East Coast hockey league for Tallahassee Tiger Sharks.

Motorcycling
WORLD SUPERBIKE CHAMPIONSHIPS (Laguna Seca Raceway, California) Sixth round: Race 1: 1 J Kocinski (US) Ducati 41min 03.153sec; 2 T Corser (Aus) Ducati +0.117sec; 3 N Hodgson (GB) Ducati +6.380; 4 C Edwards (US) Yamaha +11.326; 5 A Slight (NZ) Honda Castrol +15.682; 6 M Hale (US) Ducati +17.840; 7 S Crafar (NZ) Kawasaki +25.637; 8 C Fogarty (GB) Honda Castrol +26.053; 9 W Yoshikawa (Japan) Yamaha +26.624; 10 K McCarthy (Aus) Suzuki +32.687. Race 2: 1 A Gobert (Aus) Kawasaki 40:59.224; 2 T Corser (Aus) Ducati +4.891; 3 A Slight (NZ) Honda Castrol +11.743; 4 C Fogarty (GB) Honda Castrol +13.344; 5 S Crafar (GB) Kawasaki +34.381; 6 D Chandler (US) Kawasaki +18.070; 7 P Chili (It) Ducati +20.159; 8 W Yoshikawa (Japan) +21.279; 9 N Hodgson (GB) Ducati +24.296; 10 Mike Hale (US) Ducati +25.231. World Championship positions: 1 Corser 204pts; 2 Slight 200; 3 Fogarty 170; 4 Kocinski 157; 5 Edwards 123; 6 Chili 117, 7 Crafar 112; 6 Gobert 84; 8 Hodgson 62; 10 Hale 57.

Motor racing
ITV yesterday announced details of their Formula One coverage, promising that commercial breaks will cause minimum disruption to the sport's showcase events. It begins presenting the Formula One season in March 1997 and will show qualifying sessions and feature programmes on each grand prix as well as providing saturation coverage of the actual race itself.

Rugby League
AUSTRALIAN PREMIERSHIP: Sydney City 8 Manly 34.

Rugby Union
Gloucester, the Courage League club, lost over £140,000 last year. According to Doug Wadley, the club treasurer, the arrival of professional rugby and a drop in marketing and advertising income at Kingsholm are the principal reasons for the deficit and there will have to be a marked rise in the cost of season tickets and charges at the gate.
THIRD STUDENT WORLD CUP Final: France 38 South Africa 20.

Tennis
Michael Chang, seeded second, yesterday won his second title of the year by beating the fourth seed, Wayne Ferreira, 6-2, 6-4 at the Legg Mason Classic tournament in Washington. Chang will now move to a career-high No 3 on the ATP Tour rankings.
LEGG MASON MEN'S CLASSIC (Washington) Singles final: M Chang (US) bt W Ferreira (SA) 6-2 6-4. Doubles final: G Connell (Can) and S Davis (US) bt O Fisch (US) and C Woodruff (US) 7-6 3-6 6-3.
A AND P WOMEN'S CLASSIC (Mahwah, New Jersey) Final: A Frazier (US) bt M Maleeva (Bul) 6-4 6-3.
AUSTRIAN OPEN (Kitzbühel) First round: M Hipfl (Aut) bt S Koubek (Aut) 6-2 6-3; E Sanchez (Sp) bt T Schiessling (Aut) 6-3 6-4; D Rikl (Cz Rep) bt R Fromberg (Aus) 6-1 6-3; D Balducci (It) bt O Delaitre (Fr) 6-4 6-1; F Messori (It) bt A Portas (Sp) 6-3 7-6 (7-1); J-A Viloca (Sp) bt H Wiltschnig (Aut) 6-3 6-3; L Burgsmueller (Ger) bt M Charpentier (Arg) 6-3 6-2; G Blanco (Sp) bt A Cherkasov (Rus) 5-7 7-5 6-3; D Camporese (It) bt Y El Aynaoui (Mor) 6-4 6-4.
UNDER-16 EUROPEAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP (Queenswood, Hertfordshire): Boys, first round (selected): N Fracassi (It) bt C Hansen (Swe) 4-6 6-0 6-1; R Vik (Cz Rep) bt D Dekel (Isr) 6-0 7-5; M Belski (Bor) bt L Kiski (Fin) 6-1 7-5; O Rochus (Bel) bt G Figueiredo (Por) 6-0 6-1; J Hernych... Zahlava (Ger) bt J Kaso (Swe) 6-2 6-3; L Zovko (Croa) bt E Tanik (Tur) 6-1 6-1; O Sherwood (GB) bt E Diaz (And) 6-0 6-0; J Adaktusson (Swe) bt L Magdincev (Mac) 6-3 6-7 6-4; J Ferrero (Sp) bt F Semoselko (Bul) 6-1 6-4; S Dixon (GB) bt M Pehar (Croa) 6-4 6-1; S Luzzi (It) bt J Poux (And) 6-2 6-0; X Malisse (Bel) bt R Federer (Swit) 6-2 6-1. Girls, first round: Z Ondraskova (Cz Rep) bt D Nicolaiou (Cyp) 6-0 6-0; L Cartwright (GB) bt M Nerenberga (Lat) 6-2 6-1; Le Bascond (Fr) bt F Borgons (Bel) 6-2 6-4; J Kostanic (Croa) bt A Zika (Gr).

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football
UEFA UNDER-18 Championship Finals: Group A: Hungary v France (Dijon, 4.30); Belgium v Portugal (Besançon, 4.30). Group B: England v Spain (Amnéville, 3.0); Italy v Republic of Ireland (Luxembourg, 6.30).
FRIENDLY MATCHES: Evesham Utd v Oxford Utd (7.30); Chertsey Town v Slough (7.30)

Speedway
PREMIER LEAGUE: Poole v Long Eaton.

Other sports
GOLF: English Women's Amateur Strokeplay Championship (Little Aston).
TENNIS: LTA Inter-County Championships (Eastbourne). Men's Northern Electric Open (David Lloyd Centre, Newcastle).

Brazil beaten and bowed by Japan

FOOTBALL
By Phil Davison

They found it so difficult to take in. Brazil, hilled as the "dream team" of the Olympic football tournament, were beaten 1-0 by Japan in their opeoing group match in Miami on Sunday evening. The Japanese worked hard for their victory, hut the decisive goal came from their only shot at goal.

Middlesbrough's Juninho, who had run his legs off with little support, looked stunned as he walked off the pitch at the Orange Bowl. Bebeto, one of the three over-age players each country is allowed to strengthen their squad, sat on the pitch and held his head in his hands. Some of the several thousand delirious Japanese fans, many wearing white hendhands with their national Rising Sun symbol, decribed it as the higgest win in their sports history.

Nigeria joined Japan at the top of Group D with three points after a 1-0 victory over Hungary in Orlando, Florida, also on Sunday, so the Brazilians now need to beat Hungary tonight and Nigeria oo Thursday to be sure of qualifying for next week's quarter-finals.

With their exuberant fans making up most of the 46,000 crowd, the Brazilians appeared to treat the first half as a training session. Juninho was the main threat, pushing forward on several runs only to be blocked by the sturdy Japanese defence. Eight minutes after the hreak, he beat the Japanese goalkeeper, Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi, with a cross-cum-shot from the right, but was foiled by the woodwork.

Maybe the Braziliaos were still thinking about the female streaker who had romped on to the pitch three minutes earlier when the Japanese sent a long ball forward in the 72nd minute, causing defender Aldair and goalkeeper Dida unexpected prohlems. The ball came off Aldair's head into the path of Teruyoshi Ito, who only had to slide it into the oet to take on national hero status.

Eveo the introduction of Ronaldinho, the man who signed for Barcelona last week for a fee estimated at around £10m for Flamengo's Savio, failed to unsettle the Japanese defence.

The organisers had placed Brazil in Miami because of the huge Brazilian community but the fans, many carrying drums or tambourines, left in stunned silence. At home, the tournament is being billed as the oext best thing to the World Cup and the one football trophy Brazil has never won, despite reaching the final twice.

The Olympic tournament, run in four groups of four, is split hetweeo Miami and Orlando, Florida, for groups B and D, and Birmingham, Alabama, and Washington DC for groups A and C. The quarter-finals will be played in Miami and Birmingham, with the semis and the final in Athens, Georgia.

Argentina, powered by the Atletico Madrid midfielder Diego Simeone, beat the United States 3-1 on Saturday to lead Group A from Portugal, who beat Tunisia 2-0. France, who defeated Australia 2-0, lead Group B from Spain, who edged Saudi Arabia 1-0. In Group C, Mexico and South Korea share the lead after 1-0 victories over Italy aod Ghana respectively.

A women's tournament is being held in the same cities, with two groups of four, listed as groups E and F. After the opening games, the United States leads Group E after hammering Denmark 3-0. China lie second after beating Sweden 2-0 in a match played before a swelling Oraoge Bowl crowd arriving for Sunday's Brazil-Japan men's game. In Group F, Germany are alone at the top after a 3-2 victory over Japan. Brazil drew 2-2 with Norway, the world champions, thanks to a last-minute goal.

Delight for Japan after Ito's 72nd-minute goal gave them a shock victory over Brazil Photograph: AllSport

Herbert out to add to his crying gains

Garry Herbert's tears on the rostrum were one of the images of Barcelona. But, as he tells Mike Rowbottom, success this time will be much harder

For any spectator unfamiliar with the role of the coxswain, the scoreboard beside the finish line here yesterday spelt it out: "The person who directs the boat."

For Garry Herbert, cox to the British men's eight, the simple business of directing a boat is pretty low on the list of requirements. Somewhere near the top would be: "Passing on the winning habit."

That is something this 26-year-old barrister has acquired over the years since he became a recognised figure in the sporting world by coxing Greg and Jonny Searle to gold at the last Olympics.

Herbert's tears on the rostrum as he stood alongside his hroadly grinning teammates became an image to set alongside Gazza's tears in Turin, a moment when the deep emotions of sport were given unforgettable expression.

Herbert: Positive attitude

In the years that have followed, Herbert, Britain's leading cox, has had other triumphs, including a world title win – again with the Searle's – in 1993, an MBE, and, last year, a call to the Bar.

But it is for that moment that he is chiefly remembered outside rowing circles – and he is entirely comfortable with that.

"If I'm upset, I tell people. If I'm happy, people know I will express my feelings. People do come up to me and say, 'You were the one who cried' or whatever. That's OK. It brought a bit of recognition to the sport. Since Barcelona, the profile of the whole sport has just gone up."

Thus he and his friends from the close-knit rowing fraternity found themselves sitting prominently alongside the professional athletes at the BBC Sports Review of the Year. "The only difference was that while they went away to train the next day, we went back to college."

Herbert, as articulate as you might expect a harrister to be, has a major role as a motivator to a young eight whose preparations in the last two months have been severely disrupted by illness to three of the crew. Their performance yesterday, when they finished fourth in the preliminary, left much work still to be done before tomorrow's second chance in the repêchage.

"Back in 1992, Jonny and Greg and I had a dream run to the Games," he said. "But when there are eight the chances of things going wrong are that much greater.

"We have had a miserable season, but I bring just a belief that things can he turned around. I've coxed boats that have been blown out of the water in the first round and theo gone on to win the regatta.

"If you can say that these things have actually happened to you, people are more likely to listen."

While tears-on-the-rostrum was the image of Barcelona as far as the watching world was concerned, Herbert cherishes two other moments.

The first came when he eventually reached his mother, father and girlfriend in the stand. "It was so good that they were there to see what all the hard work of getting up at dawn and being gone for weeks on end was all ahout."

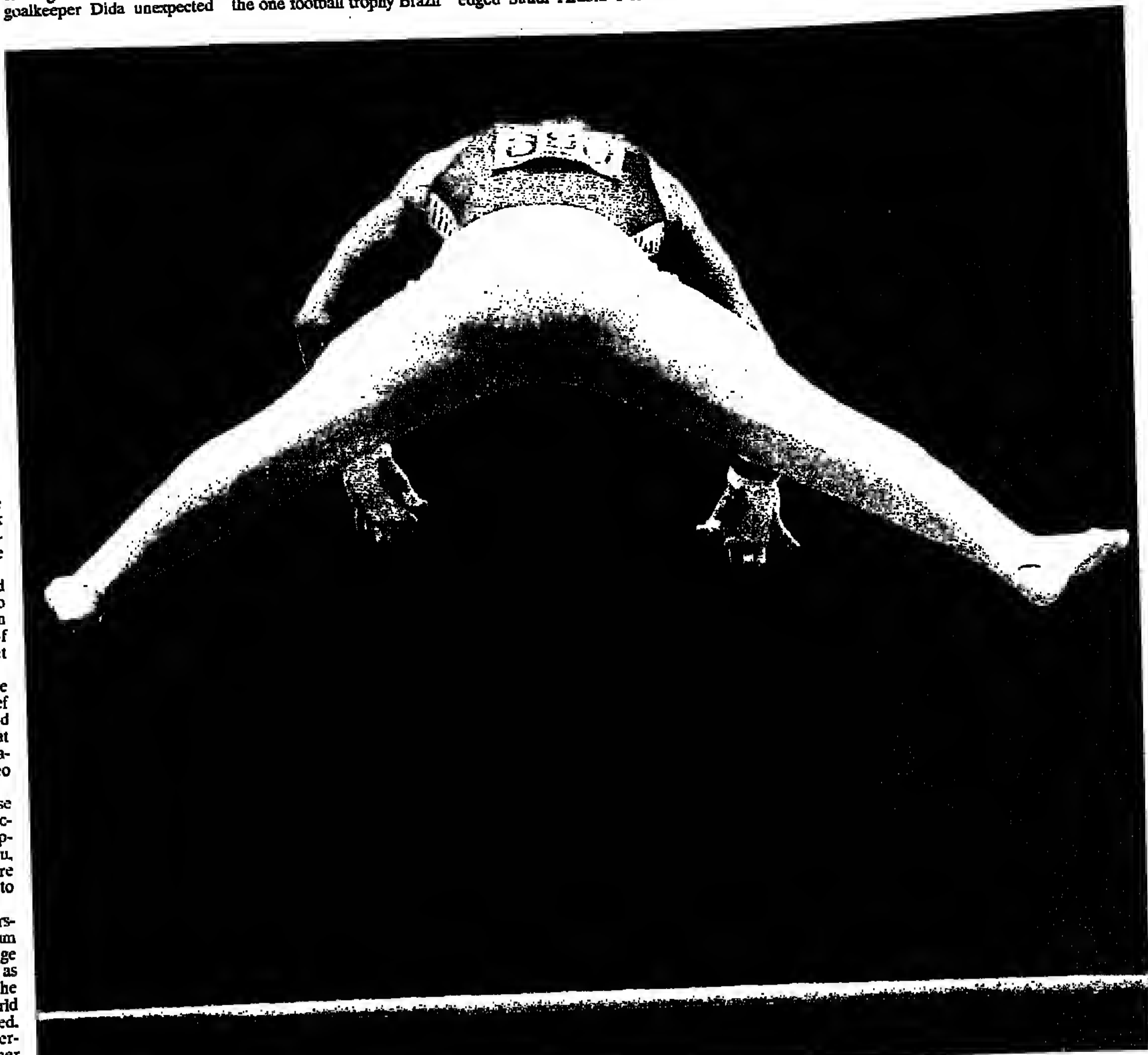
Another moment came two days after the victory, hack in the Olympic village. "I was just sitting watching it get dark and Greg came up and gave me a great big hug.

"We had some good laughs doing television and all that media stuff, but things like that you can't buy."

However things turn out at these Games, Herbert will retire at the end of the season to concentrate on a law career which he hopes will involve work in the growing area of sporting cases.

But he will take with him memories of sublime moments which his sport has provided him with, moments which go beyond actual victory.

"It's when you feel in tune with the boat," he said. "The guys are happy, and you know they are happy. It becomes like an iocreasing circle."


Boris Preti, of Italy, shows some symmetry on the asymmetric bars in the team gymnastics event yesterday Photograph: David Ashdown

Australia hit by Ryan's sad exit

EQUESTRIANISM
By Mary Gordon Watson

The Olympic champion, Matt Ryan, of Australia, withdrew from the three-day event at the Georgia International Horse Park yesterday because his horse, Hinnegar, has bruised a foot. It was a sad way to begin the second day of dressage, and following the withdrawal of Mark Todd, the individual winner in Los Angeles and Seoul, there is dismay that two Olympic "superstars" are not able to take part.

Although Ryan has a reserve horse, Alater Pedis, in Atlanta, he will oot be riding in the individual event as it was only second reserve to Andrew Hoy's Gershwin and has not been kept at competition fitness.

Gillian Rolton, who rode for Australia in Barcelona, steps into Ryan's team place with Peppermint Park, while Gershwin now competes in the individual event.

Ryan disguised his disappointment well. "Horses are always at risk wheo they're working this hard," he said. "Hinnegar's foot problem is minor, and he'll be fine in three or four days. We still have a stronger team than when we won in Barcelona, and it's on the cross-country that we shine. So we'll go for it, we're in with a good chance."

The United States team maintained their dressage lead following an excellent test from their third rider, Bruce Davidson, on the nine-year-old, Heyday. Davidson, the perennial team rider, was delighted with the horse's performance: "He tries very hard all the way through." Their score, 42.60, combined with Karen and David O'Connor's 39.60 and 40.80, kept his team in the lead, ahead of New Zealand.

Canada also fared well to ease into fourth place ahead of Britain, whose third member, Gary Parsonage, was penalised 62.60 for his efforts on Magic Rogue. With little international experience – his best result so far is 16th at Burghley last year – Parsonage was unfortunate to follow New Zealand's multiple medal-winner Vicky Latta into the arena. Latta rode an immaculate and attractive test on Broadcast News for 41 penalties, strengthening her team's position after Blyth Tait and Andrew Nicholson had scored 48.80 and 47.20.

Magic Rogue became tense toward the end of his test, especially in the second walk. "He'd much rather gallop," Parsonage said. "He thinks dressage is a waste of time."

Competitors remain cautious about how the cross-country course will ride today. The heat, however, no longer seems the biggest worry. "Everything possible has been done to help us," Davidson said. "The course has never been shorter for an Olympics, so it's down to us."

Britain feel benefits of specialisation

HOCKEY
By Guy Hodgson

American football has used the concept for years, a specific performer to do a specific job. But Britain heading the field in specialisation? Even the country's men's hockey manager seemed a little surprised to find his team at the tactical vanguard.

"For the first time ever Britain decided to lead the way," David Whittle said after a 2-2 draw with Korea opened their Olympic programme in Group B. He was referring to the use of short-corner striker Calum Giles, who would not be anywhere near the team in terms of skill hut who takes to the field whenever a short or penalty corner is awarded.

On Sunday the tactic worked perfectly. Britain were awarded two penalty corners, Giles left his seat on the bench, calmly scored a goal and then returned to the sidelines. "There's 15 very good field players out there," the Havant striker said. "They play 15 different roles and I play a 16th."

Giles' part is an isolated one hecause Britain are out on their own even though he has accrued 34 goals in 55 international appearances. "We are the main team using this tactic," Whittle said. "A lot of countries have got good short corner strikers, it's just that we think that we've got the best and he's started to prove it against Korea. We reckon if we can get 20 to 25 per cent of our short corners in we will do reasonahly well."

Technology is also helping as Britain have video cameras in the stands recording how their opponents will defend against him. "The coach will always give a call to where we believe there's a weakness," Whittle said. "We have a library of pictures of all their short corners. We know the formation they run out at us. The coach suggests a shot to Calum and he has a happy knack of putting it away."

As for Sunday's result, Whittle was content despite Korea's goal two minutes from time that denied Britain a win. "At least we have got a point on the hoard," he said. "Korea are a very good side. Very fast, very fit and we're not really disappointed."

Impressive fightback brings Britain some consolation

BILL COLWILL

Great Britain	1
Netherlands	1

Great Britain's women bounced back from their opening 5-0 defeat by Korea when they recovered from going a goal down after 11 minutes for a creditable draw against the Netherlands.

In a hard, uncompromising game, the Dutch took the lead from their first penalty corner. Hilary Rose blocked Wietske de Ruiter's initial powerful shot, but with Kath Johnson slow to clear off the pads, Jeannette Lewin slipped in to snatch the lead.

Although Britain were unable to take advantage of the Dutch being reduced to 10 players following temporary suspensions to Carole Thate and Noor Holshoer for nearly half the first period, they were back on terms seven minutes into the second half.

Rhona Simpson won a penalty stroke following a scramble in the Dutch goalmouth after Jill Atkins' penalty-corner strike. Hightown's Chris Cook beat Jacqueline Toxopeus from the spot. As the game swung from end to end, a tremendous battle developed hetween Karen Brown and the Dutch centre-forward, Ellen Kuipers, Brown coming out on top.

Some resolute defending set Britain up for the third game today against the USA, who yesterday had a stunning 3-2 win against Korea, thanks to early goals by Tracey Fuchs and Marcia Pankratz before a full house. The Koreans clawed their way back to 2-2 until, with 16 seconds remaining, Barbara Marois slammed home the winner at a penalty corner.

The Australians, world champions and favourites to win gold, gave another impressive performance in beating Argentina, the world No 2, 7-1 thanks to aggressive, attacking play and the first hat-trick of the Olympics from Alyson Annan.

GREAT BRITAIN: H Rose (Sutton Coldfield), J Atkins (Bradford Swithenbank, capt), S Fraser (Bonagrass Grove), K Brown (Slough), K Johnson (Balsam Leicester), P Robertson (Edinburgh), M Dawes (Sutton Coldfield Ladies), T Miller (Clifton), J Sexsmith (Sutton Coldfield Ladies), R Simpson (Edinburgh), M Nicholls (Slough). **Substitutes used:** C Cook (Hightown), A Bennett (Slough).
NETHERLANDS: J Toxopeus, N Holshoer, W Dwyster, D van der Boogaard, J Lewin, C Thate, F Steenberghe, J Teeuwen, M Donners, E Kuipers, W de Ruiter (capt). **Substitutes used:** F van de Kieft, N Koolen, S Plesman, S van der Wielen.
Umpires: P Buckley (Australia) and Lili Ok Lee (Korea).

Britons are brought back down to earth

ROWING
By Hugh Matheson

The glories of the first day for the British crews at the Olympic regatta on Lake Lanier gave way on the second to some grim truths when the four contenders finished last or second last in their opening heats.

Usually one crew will qualify from the heat direct to the final or semi-final with the remainder to progress through the repêchage. As a result crews will decide early on that they cannot win and will work on saving energy for the next round allowing others to take the psychological edge as well as a day off.

Among yesterday's casualties were two potential medal-class hoats. The men's lightweight double scull, Andy Sinton and Nick Strange, had a tough draw with the Italian Lucerne winners and an Irish pair that included Niall O'Toole.

After 500 metres the British double was narrowly in front and looking good but in the next quarter the whole field swept through them and they were just under three seconds off the lead at half-way. Thereafter, a direct place in the semi-final was out of reach so they sculled over in tandem with the Irish. Nick Strange has a rib injury and has been out of the boat for a week, and probahly wanted to avoid further risk.

The women's eight has never beaten the United States and Romania this year hut have the chance of a hronze if it can stay ahead of Canada and Germany, hoth of whom were drawn in the same heat. Ali Gill the stroke admitted afterwards: "We had a terrible start", and amazingly in the fast moving eights event managed to drop six seconds in the first quarter which it is almost impossible to recover. In the end they finished 15 seconds off the pace in the slowest eights time of the day.

The men's eight had a bad result starting in lane one against the world's best this year, the Netherlands. They had the advantage of some shelter from a slight cross head wind and lost half a length in 20 strokes which had extended to a length after 500 metres but they plugged away and overtook the Ukraine while the Dutch spreadeagled the field.

The men's lightweight four, with three former world champions, has emerged from a strenuous selection procedure out of one of the toughest lightweight groups in the world, but has not combined to show the pace its pedigree suggests. When it too lost a length to the first quarter mark the crew cruised to the repêchage where they will have to beat one of Ireland, Austria and Spain each of whom was faster yesterday.

The long road to the regatta

SAILING
By Stuart Alexander

Queues of up to 100 athletes were left to steam in the 90 degree sunshine and high humidity yesterday as the transport system for the Olympic regatta in Savannah creaked at the seams.

For the sailors, there is no escape and it is difficult to make separate, personal arrangements to travel the 40-minute trip hy boat down the river. They first have to be bussed from the village hotel in downtown Savannah to the already remote regatta centre on the site of the boarded-up Sheraton Hotel on Wilmington Island.

There they have to wait on an open landing stage to be taken, mainly in noisy 40-seater boats, to the Day Marina, which is 150,000 sq ft of barges lashed together at the mouth of the delta.

The shuttle service was running erratically ahead of the opening race for eight out of the 10 classes, making life worse for the competitors, even though they are given priority, and doubly frustrating for support staff who are not.

Conditions were expected to be difficult, too, on the water. Local experts were predicting an early south-westerly to soften off and back into the south-east before strengthening again.

However the British team's weather expert, David Houghton, thought the hreeze could stay strong and in the south-west all day, conditions which would suit both the Soling trio of Andy Beadsworth, Barry Parkin and Adrian Stead, and the Star duo of Glyn Charles and George Skuodas.

Ben Ainslie in the Laser and Shirley Robertson in the Europe prefer light to medium winds, but all the sailors will have to watch for the kind of sudden squall which terminated the practice race on Sunday and saw many competitors capsize as they scurried for cover on the Day Marina.

TODAY'S NUMBER

21

The different countries represented in the 480-strong German Olympic squad – the most cosmopolitan at Atlanta. Countries of birth range from Poland through the Ivory Coast to Mexico and Azerbaijan.

McIntos
makes a
early ex

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McIntosh makes an early exit

FENCING
By Norman Fox

Britain's interest in the Olympic fencing competition ended early yesterday morning. Too early for Fiona McIntosh, who was still yawning as she began her fight with Ivana Georgieva, of Bulgaria, in the foil event.

The 36-year-old Scot, who is currently living in South Africa where her husband works, lost 15-4 in the first round which took place at 8.15am. She had no complaints. "I'm useless this early in the morning," she said afterwards. "It was always going to be a tough fight. The Bulgarians are better than their seedings show. Georgieva was tall and awkward. Also, she was left-handed. But it's an achievement just getting here."

McIntosh rallied slightly in mid-fight after soon falling behind. At 6-3 she seemed to be waking up, but the Bulgarian continued to take the initiative, leaving McIntosh few opportunities to counter-attack. She knew she needed to be more mobile, but said: "I found it difficult to go straight into a fight without a preliminary round."

A new system results in competitors of McIntosh's comparatively high standard having no opportunity to ease themselves in. There are no simple fights, which has had the effect here of seeing Britain's team of two quickly disappear.

Britain's most experienced fencer, McIntosh has been national champion four times and was eighth at the Barcelona Olympics. Time to retire? "No, I've no intention of that. The facilities in South Africa are excellent, so I'll carry on to the next Commonwealth championship – my sixth" she said, but she is unlikely to fight again for Britain in an Olympics. "I had a tremendous day in Barcelona, but here it was just one of those bad mornings."

On several occasions yesterday, her usual mental toughness seemed to desert her. She made several misjudgements and the Bulgarian's greater reach and speed gradually made the outcome inevitable.

She had only known that she would be competing here in May, when a Dutch Olympic qualifier dropped out. "I'd kept in shape, but it was not an ideal way to get mentally prepared."

Britain's only other fencer here, James Williams, a former soldier, was unlucky to be controversially knocked out of the sabre competition late on Sunday. It was generally acknowledged that he fought cleverly, but eventually succumbed 15-11 in the second round to the World No 4, Sergei Charikov of Russia.

Williams, second in the European qualifying zone for the Games, took a 3-1 lead and seemed to be capable of causing an upset. He took Charikov to 8-8, but at 14-11 he was the victim of a serious error by the referee when the decision on a parry-riposte went against him.

Williams had been impressive in the first round against the highly experienced American Peter Westbrook. His 15-8 victory suggested that he had a chance against Charikov, but several poor refereeing decisions left him at a disadvantage. However, he said he felt that in another four years he would be reaching his peak.

Cut and thrust: Aida Mohamed, of Hungary, parries Romania's Lara Badea in the individual foil Photograph: David Ashdown

Sweatman harks back to youth

JUDO
By Philip Nicksan

As a child learning judo at the Pinewood Judo Club in Bracknell, Rowena Sweatman, the 28-year-old middleweight, learned a turn into a hold which Don Werner teaches all his pupils. And it was that move – the Pinewood roll – which she used nearly two decades later to win her second fight in Atlanta yesterday and keep her in contention for a bronze medal.

It did not come a moment too soon. Sweatman began the day with a good win over Anja von Rekowski, the talented 20-year-old Austrian who had, surprisingly, eliminated Emanuella Pierantozzi, Italy's former world champion. The British fighter, who now teaches judo in Manchester, contained the Austrian's attacks, and then went ahead with a three-point score, knocking Rekowski backwards.

However, in the next round of the main competition against Aneta Szepanska, of Poland, Sweatman lost concentration for a moment and was easily thrown for ippon (10 points) with uchimata, the inner-thigh throw. Just how disappointed she was could be seen in the first round of the repêchage against Gabon's Melanie Nguena, for it was Nguena who scored first, tipping Sweatman over on to her side with a cross leg-grab.

Sweatman kept calm, caught Nguena on the ground, remembered her childhood lessons, and, utilising the Pinewood roll, clamped on kuzure-tate-shiho-gatame (broken upright four-quarters hold) in a lot less time than it takes to say it. She now meets Odalis Reve, the Olympic champion, in the next round.

Ryan Birch, Sweatman's companion and training partner, was outclassed in his first fight against Darcel Yandzi, of France. Birch, seeking groundwork to apply his favourite armlock, was thrown with hiza-guruma (knee wheel) for seven points, and then a footsweep for a further three points. "There is still optimism in the team because we have real medal prospects in the lighter categories," Mark Earle, the British team coach, said.

Japan's Hidehiko Yoshida, one of the favourites for middleweight gold, was thrown for ippon in his first fight by Romania's Adrian Croitoru with a superb footsweep and had to fight back through the repêchage for a chance in the bronze.

But as expected, the early rounds were totally dominated by Korea, with Min-Sun Cho, the women's world champion, and Ki-Young Jeon, the men's world champion, both producing stunning throws round after round.

YESTERDAY IN ATLANTA

Finns ban shot putter

The Finnish shot champion, Markus Koistinen, is reported to have been dropped from his country's team after failing a drugs test. The Finnish sports association said that Koistinen, who is still in Finland, has had a temporary competition ban imposed on him with immediate effect.

Koistinen tested positive for the banned substance chorionic gonadotrophin after winning the Finnish national championships in Tampere just over two weeks ago. Antti Pihlakoski, a team official, said: "He will not be going to Atlanta."

Chorionic gonadotrophin is a growth hormone which builds up weight and expands muscle bulk for increased endurance. Its side-effects can include thickening of blood, heart attacks, strokes, soft tissue swelling, hypertension and enlargement of the heart, liver and spleen. It can also lead to diabetes. Koistinen, 26, was 10th at the World Championships in Gothenburg last year.

Leslie breaks pain barrier

Basketball

The American women's basketball team showed some of the dazzling moves of their male counterparts on Sunday when they beat Cuba 101-84. The gold medal favourites were a little cautious at first, but after Lisa Leslie received a painful blow to the head – she called it "a wake-up call" – they pulled away.

Point guard Dawn Staley contributed seven spectacular assists. "I think Dawn really made some fans for women's basketball today with her passes and her plays," Tara Van Derveer, the US coach, said.

The defending champions, Russia, used their size advantage to beat Japan 73-63, but may have lost their starting backcourt of Svetlana Antipova and Irina Sumnikova through injury. Brazil had four players in double figures while Canada had none in the South Americans' 69-56 victory, while Australia, wearing distinctive skintight outfits, scored a 76-61 triumph over South Korea.

No salute for Savon

Boxing

Cuba, led by the heavyweight champion, Felix Savon, have matched the Americans step by step. However, the formidable team has few friends among a partisan crowd.

Savon, five times a world champion, closed the Sunday's programme by outpointing Andrei Kumyavka, of Kirghizstan, 9-3 to maintain Cuba's 100 percent record in five fights. Despite being level 1-1 after the first round, Savon rarely looked in danger.

The Cuban lightweight, Julio Gonzalez Valladares, earlier outclassed Romeo Brin, of the Philippines, 24-13. Whistles and catcalls greeted the verdict.

The Ugandan lightweight, Franco Agentho, lost 12-8 to Fabrizio Nievas, of Argentina, but won a standing ovation. Henry Kunsi, a lightweight from Bougainville Island in Papua New Guinea, also won the crowd's affections despite losing on the tie-break to Brazil's Agnaldo Nunez.

Life's not a beach

Beach volleyball

Britain's team of Audrey Cooper and Amanda Glover will have the odds stacked against them when they launch their Olympic programme against Australia at Atlanta Beach today.

While the pair struggle to fit in their training around their jobs, the likes of Brazil and the United States are professionals, earning up to $100,000 (£66,000) a year.

"Anything around sixth would be a tremendous achievement considering they are amateurs and everyone else does it full-time," Vince Joyce, their coach, said.

"We've had the publicity, now we need the girls to perform as best they can," he said. "The interest is there with them qualifying for the Olympics, now we need to double and treble it. Everybody knows that beach volleyball is not just a recreation – you can get something out of it."

Women aim to wrestle in 2000

Wrestling

Women's wrestling could be on the Olympic programme in Sydney in four years' time, the sport's governing body said yesterday.

Female wrestlers are registered in 56 countries – a number that is increasing steadily – and the international wrestling federation, Fila, is hopeful of seeing them competing in 2000.

"The standard is high in women's wrestling and it's lovely to look at," Michel Dusson, secretary general of Fila, said. "We're hoping to have it accepted this year." He said Fila would have to include women's wrestling within the eight days allotted to wrestling in the Olympic programme.

Women would fight at fewer weight divisions than the men and only in the freestyle event, and some men's categories might have to be cut. However, Dusson said it would be worth it: "There's less strength involved, but it's more dynamic. It would be very exciting."

Yuri Melnichenko of Kazakhstan won his country's first summer Olympic gold on Sunday, denying the United States a home victory by defeating world champion Dennis Hall in the 57kg Greco-Roman class.

Hall had attracted an enthusiastic home crowd to the Atlanta conference centre hosting the ancient Olympic sport, but they were soon silenced when Melnichenko, the 1994 world champion, used his superior speed to take a 4-0 lead in the first minute of the five-minute bout. Hall fought his way back into the match, grabbing a quick point with a throw-down in the last seconds, but had to settle for silver.

The Poles were on top form in Sunday's session and took two of the five golds on offer. Andrei Wronski, the 1988 Olympic and former world champion, ended what he said would be his last Olympics with victory over Sergei Lishtvan of Belarus.

It was the closest bout of the afternoon, lasting the regulation five minutes and three minutes of sudden-death extra time without any points being scored. Wronski won by a judges' decision.

Another Pole, Ryszard Wolni, bulldozed through France's European champion, Yalouz Ghani, in the 68kg class with a seven-point gold medal victory.

Shim Kwon-Ho of South Korea took the gold in the 48kg class, beating Aleksandr Pavlov of Belarus, while in the 82kg final, Turkey's Hamza Yerlikaya blocked out Germany's Thomas Zander for a three-point win. At the age of 20, Yerlikaya is now European, world and Olympic champion.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS FROM ATLANTA

Basketball

MEN: Preliminary round: Group A: Croatia 109 China 78. Group B: Greece 89 Brazil 87.

Fencing

MEN: Individual foil preliminaries: Ye Chong (China) bt R Rupyev (Uzbek) 15-4; P Kielpikowski (Pol) bt H Ichigatani (Japan) 15-13; Kim Yong-kook (S Kor) bt R Kiss (Hung) 15-11; D Bryzgalov (Ukr) bt C Bayer (US) 15-11; A Krzesinski (Pol) bt E Brown (US) 15-14; V Pavlovich (Rus) bt A Perez Araque (Ven) 15-2; M Ludwig (Aut) bt C Rodriguez Vargas (Ven) 15-11; J Garcia (Sp) bt R Suarez (Ven) 15-10; Haibin Wang (China) bt P Devine (US) 15-12; L Marchetti (Arg) bt M Falcnetto (Aut) 15-13; J Garcia (Sp) bt O M Perez (Cuba) 15-11; R S Tucker Leon (Cuba) bt Haibin Wang (China) 15-11; Z Ersek (Hung) bt M Marx (Hung) 15-10; W Wienand (Ger) bt L Marchetti (Arg) 15-1; P Kielpikowski (Pol) bt S Cenoni (It) 15-7; L Plumenail (Fr) bt M Ludwig (Aut) 15-12; E Gregory (Cuba) bt A Krzesinski (Pol) 15-10; P Omnes (Fr) bt V Grigoryev (Kazak) 15-4; S Golubytsky (Ukr) bt Kim Yong-Kook (S Kor) 15-4; U Romer (Ger) bt J Wendt (Aut) 15-7; Ye Chong (China) bt A Koch (Ger) 15-13; R Sobczak (Pol) bt A Ali (Kuw) 15-7; Kim Young-ho (S Kor) bt Zhaozhi Dong (China) 15-12; V Pavlovich (Rus) bt J Guerra (Sp) 15-11; Kim Young-ho (S Kor) bt D Shevchenko (Rus) 15-13; R Sobczak (Pol) bt M Arpino (It) 15-14; A Puccini (It) bt O Bryzgalov (Ukr) 15-2; R S Tucker Leon (Cuba) bt Z Ersek (Hung) 15-4.

WOMEN: Individual foil preliminaries: I Georgieva (Bul) bt F McIntosh (GB) 15-4; A F Mauritz (Ger) bt Jun Liang (China) 15-10; A Mohamed (Hung) bt A Rybicka (Pol) 15-8; A Wuilleme (Fr) bt R Szabo (Rom) 15-12; V Vezzali (It) bt Chun Mi-Kyung (S Kor) 15-12; D Bianchedi (It) bt Huifeng Wang (China) 15-10; Aihua Xiao (China) bt A Angelova (Bul) 15-4; B Szewczyk (Pol) bt O Pamon (Arg) 15-8; L Czuckermann-Hatuel (Isr) bt F Zimmerman (US) 15-12; A Marsh (US) bt S Bau (Ger) 15-8; G Trillini (It) bt I Georgieva (Bul) 15-8; L Modaine-Cessac (Fr) bt O Sharkova (Rus) 15-14; D Velitchko (Rus) bt G Romacane Lamos (Hung) 15-14; S Bau (Ger) bt A Ohayon (Isr) 15-10; M Weber-Koszto (Ger) bt K Felusiak (Pol) 15-14; L Badea (Rom) bt L Pansley (Isr) 15-5; Z Nemethne Janosi (Hung) bt B Szewczyk (Pol) 15-11; R Scarlat (Rom) bt S Boyko (Rus) 15-10; A Mohamed (Hung) bt A Fichtel Mauritz (Ger) 15-14; V Vezzali (Ger) bt O Velitchko (Rus) 15-13; M Weber-Koszto (Ger) bt L Czuckermann-Hatuel (Isr) 15-13; L Modaine-Cessac (Fr) bt O Bianchedi (It) 15-0 (withdrew injured). Quarter-finals: G Trillini (Italy) bt Aihua Xiao (China) 15-7; L Badea (Rom) bt A Mohamed (Hung) 15-8; L Modaine-Cessac (Fr) bt M Weber-Koszto 15-14; V Vezzali (It) bt A Marsh (US) 15-10.

Hockey

MEN: Preliminaries: Group A: Spain 3 (Amat 2, Escarrel) Pakistan 0.

WOMEN: Preliminaries (round robin): Australia 7 (Farrell, Powell, Annan 3, Roche, Powell) Argentina 1 (Pug); USA 3 (Fuchs, Pankratz, Maros) South Korea 2 (Chang Eun-jung, Lee Eun-kyung).

Judo

MEN: Middleweight (86kg): Pool A: First round: Ao Tegen (China) bt M Pisula (Pol) ippon. All others received byes to second round. Second round: O Maltsev (Rus) bt Ao Tegen ippon; A Bagdasarov (Uzbek) bt S Celestin (Haiti) ippon; B Olson (US) bt Wu Kuo-Hui (Tai) yuko; A Merkevicius (Lith) bt P Lacina (Cz Rep) ippon; A Croitoru (Rom) bt H Yoshida (Japan) ippon; R Mashurenko (Ukr) bt S Murray (Antilles) ippon; O Wilkinson (Aus) bt S Kitschin (Aut) ippon; D Yandzi (Fr) bt R Birch (GB) waza-ari. Third round: Bagdasarov bt Maltsev; Merkevicius bt Olson; Croitoru bt Mashurenko; Yandzi bt Wilkinson. Pool B: First round: N Gill (Can) bt R Cano (Guat) waza-ari. All others received byes to second round. Second round: M Spittka (Ger) bt S Alimzhanov (Kazak) ippon; E Branco (Bra) bt S Tsimindashvili (Geo) yuko; Gill bt A Ndenguete (Congo); L Villar (Sp) bt K Bayu (Indon) ippon; P Elsis (Arg) bt A Keeba (Mor); Y Despaigne (Cuba) bt S Hachicha (Tun); J Ki-young (S Kor) bt M Huizinga (Neth); S Abolo Biwole (Cameroon) bt J C Raphael (Mauritius). Third round: Spittka bt Branco; Gill bt Villar; Despaigne bt Elsis; Jeon Ki-young bt Biwole.

WOMEN: Middleweight (66kg): Pool A: First round: Cho Min-sun (S Kor) bt R Campos (Bra) ippon; R Kazumi (Japan) bt R Stusakova (Cz Rep) ippon. Byes: C Zwiers (Neth); L Ogasawara (US); Wu Mei-Ling (Tai); P Cherry (Mauritius); D Pina (Dom); Wang Xianbo (China). Second round: Zwiers bt Ogasawara; Wu Mei-Ling bt Kazumi; Pina bt Cherry; Cho Min-sun bt Wang Xianbo. Quarter-finals: Zwiers bt Wu; Cho Min-sun bt Pina. Pool B: First round: A von Rekowski (Ger) bt E Pierantozzi (It) ippon; O Reve (Cuba) bt C Dixon (Aus) ippon. Byes: E Kotelnikova (Rus); M Spacek (Aut); A Dubois (Fr); O Reve (Cuba); M Nguema (Gabon); A Szczepanska (Pol); R Sweatman (GB). Second round: M Spacek (Aut) bt Kotelnikova decision; Dubois bt Reve; Szczepanska bt Nguema; Sweatman bt von Rekowski. Quarter-finals: Dubois bt Spacek; Szczepanska bt Sweatman.

Rowing

MEN: Lightweight double sculls (winners to semi-finals; rest to repêchage): Heat 1: 1 Holland (M van der Linden/P Aardewijn) 6min 49.93sec; 2 United States (T Auth/S Peterson) 6:50.55; 3 Greece (V Polymeros/I Kourkoumbas) 6:50.57; 4 Argentina (F Zapata/A Rocha) 7:07.50; 5 Sweden (M Tichy/A Christensson) 7:18.87.

Heat 2: 1 Spain (J M de Marco/J C Saez) 6:46.66; 2 Italy (M Audisio/M Crispi) 8:47.26; 3 Poland (R Sycz/G Witowski) 6:54.68; 4 Ireland (B Dolan/N O'Toole) 6:56.28; 5 Great Britain (N Strange/A Sinton) 6:56.88.

Heat 3: 1 Switzerland (M Gier/M Gier) 6:47.28; 3 Austria (W Sigl/W Rantasa) 8:54.36; 3 Norway (M Kvalvik/T-A Erdal) 8:57.37; 4 Cuba (R Leon/A Arias) 7:01.13; 5 Czech Republic (A Michalek/M Vabrousek) 7:16.07.

Heat 4: 1 Australia (A Edwards/B Hick) 6:49.95; 2 Germany (P Uhrig/I Euler) 6:54.82; 3 Japan (K Obinata/H Hase) 6:56.17; 4 New Zealand (R Hamill/M Rodger) 7:09.61.

Lightweight coxless fours (winners to semi-finals; rest to repêchage): Heat 1: 1 Denmark (N Henriksen/T Poulsen/E Ebbesen/V Feddersen) 8:20.13; 2 Ireland (D Holland/S Lynch/N Maxwell/A O'Connor) 6:23.82; 3 Australia (H Karrasch/D Belcher/G Lynagh/S Burgess) 6:25.87; 4 Italy (L Pettinari/ Zasso/C Gaddi/A Re) 6:26.80; 5 Great Britain (D Lemon/J McNiven/T Kay/B Helm) 6:35.56; 6 Argentina (J Lay/D Boyes/G Hessell/B Peeker) 6:43.58.

Heat 2: 1 Canada (J Lay/D Boyes/G Hessell/B Peeker) 8:18.55; 2 United States (J Pescatore/D Collins/M Schneider/W Carucci) 6:21.85; 3 Russia (V Miryushev/A Uzenov/A Chavel/D Kartashov) 6:26.36; 4 Spain (F Climent/D Morales/J Manuel Rondo/A Garon) 6:28.05; 5 Japan (K Nakamura/Y Tanabe/M Iwaguro/K Mimoto) 6:30.16; 6 Portugal (S Aguiar/J Fernandes/H Barinho/M Fernandes) 7:37.13.

Coxless eights (winners to semi-finals; rest to repêchage): Heat 2: 1 Netherlands 5:41.41; 2 Canada 5:44.00; 3 Germany 5:46.53; 4 Great Britain (M Parish/J Walker/A Story/R Hamilton/R Brown/P Bridge/B Hunt-Davis/G Smith/G Herbert) 5:49.37; 5 Ukraine 5:55.32. Heat 2: 1 United States 5:44.87; 2 Germany 5:46.04; 3 Russia 5:48.63; 4 Romania 5:54.34; 5 Italy 5:54.59.

WOMEN: Lightweight double sculls (winners to semi-finals; rest to repêchage): Heat 1: 1 United States (L Burns/T Bell) 7:28.28; 3 Italy (L Beroni/M Ozzan) 7:31.58; 3 Netherlands (L Vermulst/E Meliesie) 7:32.30; 4 China (Fei Li/Shaoyan Ou) 7:36.71; 5 France (M Lamolle/C Muller) 7:36.75; 6 Greece (A Gremou/C Biskitzi) 8:01.60.

Heat 2: 1 Australia (V Lee/R Joyce) 7:33.16; 2 Germany (M Darvill/R Kapar) 7:45.52; 3 Sweden (M Knapp/K Knapp) 7:48.13; 4 Spain (E Marquez/N Dominguez) 7:51.05; 5 Japan (A Yoshida/N Shibuta) 7:55.99.

Heat 3: 1 Romania (C Burcica/C Macovicruc) 7:33.61; 3 Denmark (B Christoffersen/L Andersen) 7:36.47; 3 Canada (C Miller/W Wiebe) 7:41.20; 4 Austria (C Schustereder/M Felzeder) 7:45.45; 5 Mexico (A Sofi Soberanes/A Boltz) 8:00.92.

Coxless eights (winners to semi-finals; rest to repêchage): Heat 1: 1 Belarus 6:24.61; 2 United States 6:28.45; 3 Netherlands 6:32.71; 4 Australia 6:35.69. Heat 2: 1 Romania 6:23.94; 2 Canada 6:29.08; 3 Germany 6:33.90; 4 Great Britain (A Stapleton/L Eyre/O Blackie/K Pollitt/M Batten/C Bishop/J Turvey/A Gill/S Ellis) 6:39.34.

Shooting

MEN: 10m air rifle: Qualifying round (top eight to final): 1 W Waibel Jnr (Aut) 596.0pt; 2 R Harbison (US) 594.0; 3 A Khedzhibelov (Rus) 594.0; 4 R Debevec (Sloven) 591.0; 5 E Aleinikov (Rus) 591.0; 6 J-P Amat (Fr) 591.0; 7 L Steinar Rolland (Nor) 591.0; 8 M Bakes (Cz Rep) 591.0; 9= M Eckhardt (Ger); NP Haakedal (Nor) 591.0; 11= A Klimenko (Bela); P Kurka (Cz Rep); Lee Eun-chul (S Kor); Lim Young-sueb (S Kor) 590.0; 15= J Hirvi (Fin); G Maksimovic (Yug); N Mirosavljev (Yug) 589.0; 18= F Badiou (Fr); O Grabner (Aut); Li Jie Ning (China); J Riederer (Ger) 588.0.

Final

1 Artem Khadzhibekov (Rus) 695.7
2 Wolfram Waibel (Aut) 695.2
3 Jean-Pierre Amat (Fr) 693.1
4 E Aleinikov (Rus) 692.9; 5 L S Rolland (Nor) 692.5; 6 R Debevec (Sloven) 692.1; 7 R Harbison (US) 691.8; 8 M Bakes (Cz Rep) 690.5.

Swimming

MEN: 100m freestyle (fastest eight to final): Heat 1: 1 O Bolinger (Guam) 52.68; 3 K Roberts (Sey) 52.89; 3 D Mularoni (S Marino) 57.11; 4 K Al-Dhahen (UAE) 57.70. Did not start: A Al Gazali (Yemen).

Heat 2: 1 R Mazoulis (Lith) 50.27; 2 J Gojkovic (Bosnia) 51.28; 3 G Yizotis (Gre) 52.04; 4 Kon Yun-ho (S Kor) 52.56; 5 N Kalabic (Yug) 52.98; 6 D Pardomo Cuenca (Col) 53.01; 7 Sng Ju Wei (Sing) 53.60; 8 JL Bocanegra Schell (Guat) 54.05.

Heat 3: 1 S Ashihmin (Kyrgyzstan) 51.07; 2 G Lmechaer (Surinam) 51.82; 3 A U (HK) 51.84; 4 J Isaza Chu (Pan) 51.86; 5 O Tsvetkovsky (Uzbek) 52.39; 6 S Mihaelides (Cyp) 52.65; 7 M Cazmircuc (Mol) 53.18; 8 Huang Chih-yung (Tai) 53.47.

Heat 4: 1 S Brinn (Jam) 50.38; 2 I Ses (Est) 51.19; 3 J Benavides (Sp) 51.20; 4 F Delgado (Ecu) 51.38; 5 Zhao Lifeng (China) 51.70; 6 M Kanjer (Croa) 51.76; 7 K Varonen (Fin) 52.00; 8 T Zinhom (Eg) 52.16.

Heat 5: 1 R Busquets (PR) 49.61; 2 B Kizierowski (Pol) 50.18; 3 O Rukhlevich (Bela) 50.42; 4 A Yegorov (Kazak) 50.49; 5 N Gruson (Fr) 50.71; 6 B Dedekind (SA) 50.95; 7 E McCarthy (Irl) 50.99; 8 S Ito (Japan) 51.29.

Heat 6: 1 G Hall Jnr (US) 49.90; 2 F Sanchez (Ven) 49.59; 3 P Khnykin (Ukr) 49.69; 4 P van den Hoogenband (Neth) 49.73; 5 C Troger (Ger) 50.06; 6 A Zubor (Hung) 50.43; 7 T Bray (NZ) 51.18; 8 R Bera (Indon) 51.25.

Heat 7: 1 S Clarke (Can) 50.14; 2 J Olsen (US) 50.17; 3 C Fydler (Aus) 50.27; 4 B Zikarsky (Ger) 50.38; 5 Y Bruck (Isr) 50.61; 6 N Ivan (Rom) 51.14; 7 S Szabados (Hung) 51.26; 8 J Meolans (Arg) 52.02.

Heat 8: 1 A Popov (Rus) 48.74; 2 G Borges (Bra) 49.17; 3 F Scherer (Bra) 49.79; 4 L Frolander (Swe) 49.91; 5 R Saratov (Ukr) 50.31; 6 V Predkin (Rus) 50.75; 7 S Iles (Alg) 50.87; 8 N Shackell (GB) 51.03.

200m butterfly (fastest eight to final): Heat 1: 1 M Kwok (HK) 2:04.01; 3 W Soza Toruno (Nic) 2:04.66; 3 A Osorio Marti (Andorra) 2:12.59.

Heat 2: 1 A Ang (Malay) 2:03.01; 2 M Bruzas (Lith) 2:03.76; 3 N Intharapichai (Thai) 2:03.88; 4 Lee Jung-hyung (S Kor) 2:04.53; 5 J Golovchenko (Ukr) 2:04.96; 6 O Pankov (Uzbek) 2:05.36; 7 A Vasconcellos (Ecu) 2:05.86. Did not start: Gonzalez (Mex).

Heat 3: 1 D Galic (Croa) 2:01.17; 2 A Malenko (Macedonia) 2:01.46; 3 D Madeira (Por) 2:01.58; 4 K Androuchine (Kirgizstan) 2:01.59; 5 V Markovic (Yug) 2:01.80; 6 J L Ballester (Sp) 2:02.69; 7 J Horky (Cz Rep) 2:02.84; 8 G Popovas (Gre) 2:06.00.

Heat 4: 1 D Sylantyev (Ukr) 1:58.04; 2 T Malchow (US) 1:58.68; 3 P Horvath (Hung) 1:58.76; 4 F Esposito (Fr) 1:58.79; 5 C Barrett (Can) 2:00.26; 6 O Abrard (Fr) 2:00.60; 7 T Yamamoto (Japan) 2:00.87; 8 C Ergenekan (Tur) 2:01.66.

Heat 5: 1 S Goodman (Aus) 1:57.77; 2 S Miller (Aus) 1:58.97; 3 S Aartsen (Neth) 2:00.04; 4 C-C Bremer (Ger) 2:00.48; 5 A Csene (Hung) 2:00.50; 5 A Orlano (It) 2:00.67; 7 A Kolesnikov (Rus) 2:00.77; 8 N Mora (Ven) 2:01.50.

Heat 6: 1 J Hickman (GB) 1:58.16; 2 D Pankratov (Rus) 1:58.28; 3 V Hansle (Fin) 1:58.73; 4 O Lampe (Ger) 1:59.87; 5 K Gatka (Pol) 1:59.97; 5 D Loader (NZ) 2:00.81; 7 R Carey (US) 2:01.10; 9 Ping Tjin Thum (Sing) 2:07.00.

WOMEN: 100m backstroke (fastest eight to final): Heat 1: 1 A Kiss (Hung) 1:07.38; 2 G Rizzo (Malta) 1:07.61; 3 X Escalera (Bol) 1:11.70; 4 H Razafindramahatra (Madag) 1:13.83.

Heat 2: 1 Lee Ji-hyun (S Kor) 1:03.96; 3 P Manprahal (Thai) 1:04.61; 3 M Kubalakova (Cz Rep) 1:05.48; 4 Y Geny (Bel) 1:05.72; 5 A Kiepkou (Gre) 1:05.94; 6= F Hetea (Rom), G Thomson (Phil) 1:06.12; 8 Tsai Shu-Min (Tai) 1:11.44.

Heat 3: 1 N Stevenson (Aus) 1:02.50; 2 Yan Chen (China) 1:02.62; 3 A Buschschulte (Ger) 1:02.68; 4 N Zhivanevskaya (Rus) 1:02.94; 5 H Ricardo (Fr) 1:04.03; 6 E Pinera (Sp) 1:04.41; 7 Chong He (China) 1:05.87; 5 V Alvarez (Arg) 1:06.38.

Heat 4: 1 M Kriel (SA) 1:02.33; 3 M Nakamura (Japan) 1:02.35; 3 M Nakao (Japan) 1:02.90; 4 O Kochetkova (Rus) 1:03.17; 6 L Lipscombe (NZ) 1:03.61; 6 T Alshammar (Swe) 1:03.79; 7 A Koivisto (Fin) 1:05.25; 8 D Komorowicz (Pol) 1:06.70.

Heat 5: 1 W Hedgepeth (US) 1:01.70; 3 B Botsford (US) 1:02.00; 3 A Scholz (Ger) 1:03.05; 4 M Jacobsen (Den) 1:03.14; 5 J Howard (Can) 1:03.84; 8 E Overton (Aus) 1:03.88; 7 H Slatter (GB) 1:03.89; 8 M Santos (Por) 1:04.84.

400m freestyle (fastest eight to final): Heat 1: 1 L Choux (Fr) 4min 21.39sec; 2 B Raaby (Den) 4:21.48; 3 R Inpom-Udom (Thai) 4:21.93; 4 M Nemec (Aut) 4:23.72; 5 A Mahaira (Gre) 4:24.05; 6 M Chinney (Peru) 4:27.11; 7 J Kiss (Hung) 4:29.90; 8 M Zarmas (Cyp) 4:32.15.

Heat 2: 1 M Boseuska (Macedonia) 4:21.27; 2 N Chernezova (Rus) 4:21.33; 3 A Barrancos (Arg) 4:22.11; 4 C Adel (Surinam) 4:22.66; 5 Jeong Eun-na (S Kor) 4:23.35; 6 P Harmokivi (Fin) 4:23.84; 7 C Strasser (Swi) 4:24.49; 8 A Alegria (Por) 4:27.19.

Heat 3: 1 C Poll (C Rica) 4:12.07; 2 J Evans (US) 4:13.60; 3 E Johnson (Aus) 4:14.13; 4 S Chiba (Japan) 4:16.07; 5 H Lewis (Aus) 4:17.02; 6 Lin Ch-chen (Tai) 4:17.18; 7 A Schwartz (Can) 4:19.46; 8 M Moravcova (Slovak) 4:22.10.

Heat 4: 1 K Vlieghuis (Neth) 4:11.04; 2 O Hase (Ger) 4:11.17; 3 CL Guerts (Neth) 4:11.18; 4 C Teuscher (US) 4:12.20; 5 S Hardcastle (GB) 4:14.50; 6 M Esparza (Sp) 4:19.45; 7 D Splichalova (Cz Rep) 4:20.04. Did not start: M Nilsson (Swe).

Heat 5: 1 K Kielgass (Ger) 4:08.99; 2 M Smith (Irl) 4:09.00; 3 E Yamanoi (Japan) 4:13.40; 4 O Bainbridge (NZ) 4:16.47; 5 C Negrea (Rom) 4:16.89; 6 S Cam (Bel) 4:17.35; 7 I Dalby (Nor) 4:19.34; 6 Chen Yan (China) 4:22.55.

4x100m freestyle relay (fastest eight to final): Heat 1: 1 Russia 3:47.33; 3 Australia 3:47.94; 3 Great Britain 3:48.26; 4 France 3:48.30; 5 Finland 3:50.33; 5 South Korea 3:57.83. Heat 2: 1 United States 3:42.36; 3 Holland 3:43.63; 3 Sweden 3:45.39; 4 Romania 3:48.43; 5 Japan 3:48.77; 6 Switzerland 3:53.30. Heat 3: 1 China 3:44.09; 3 Germany 3:44.17; 3 Canada 3:45.66; 4 Denmark 3:48.93; 5 Spain 3:49.47; 6 Belarus 3:50.22; 7 Taiwan 3:56.38.

Volleyball

WOMEN: Preliminaries: China 3 South Korea 2 (17-16 16-14 2-15 13-15 15-13); Japan 3 Ukraine 0 (15-9 15-5 15-4).

Water Polo

PRELIMINARY ROUND: Group A: Russia 10 Germany 8; Yugoslavia 9 Spain 7.

Medals table

	G	S	B	Tot
Russia	4	2	2	7
Poland	4	0	0	4
France	3	2	4	9
China	3	2	1	6
United States	2	5	2	10
Belgium	2	0	1	3
Turkey	2	0	0	3
Italy	1	1	1	3
South Korea	1	1	0	2
Australia	1	0	2	3
Costa Rica	1	0	0	1
Ireland	1	0	0	1
Kazakhstan	1	0	0	1
New Zealand	1	0	0	1
South Africa	1	0	0	1
Germany	0	4	5	9
Belarus	0	2	1	3
Cuba	0	2	1	3
Brazil	0	1	1	2
Sweden	0	1	1	2
Austria	0	1	0	1
Greece	0	1	0	1
Japan	0	1	0	1
Spain	0	1	0	1
Bulgaria	0	0	4	4
Hungary	0	0	3	3
Canada	0	0	2	2
Yugoslavia	0	0	1	1

TODAY'S TIMETABLE

All times listed are BST.

Today

ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS: 1441-1753 Women's team optionals (2011-0003): Women's team optional final.
BASEBALL: (1500-1800): Netherlands v Cuba (m) (2000-2300): Nicaragua v Korea (m), (0100-0400): Australia v Japan (m).
BASKETBALL: (1500-1830): China v Japan (w), Canada v Italy (w) (2000-2330): USA v Ukraine (w), Australia v Zaire (w), (0100-0430): Russia v Brazil (w), Cuba v Korea (w).
BEACH VOLLEYBALL: (1300-0200): Women's and men's prelims (2300-2400): Women's and men's prelims.
BOXING: (1830-2141): 51kg, 71kg and 91kg prelims, (0100-0411): Prelims.
EQUESTRIAN (three-day): (1515-2315): Team speed and endurance. Ind dressage prelims.
FENCING: (1300-1850): Men's team epee 1/8, 5-12 places, quarter and semi-finals (2000-2210): Team epee gold (m), team epee bronze (m).
FOOTBALL: (2230-0300): Brazil v Japan (w), Korea v Mexico (m), (2230-0300), (2300-0400): Denmark v China (w), Brazil v Hungary (m), USA v Sweden (w), Japan v Nigeria (m), Norway v Germany (w), Ghana v Italy (m).
HOCKEY: (1400-1600): Netherlands v Great Britain (m) (1400-1800): Australia v Germany (w), Spain v Argentina (w), Malaysia v South Africa (m), Australia v Korea (m), Netherlands v Korea (w), USA v Great Britain (w).
JUDO: (1424-1823): Women's and men's half-middleweight prelims (2002-2127): Women's and men's half-middleweight gold and repêchage, women's and men's half middleweight bronze.
ROWING: (1400-1640): Repêchages.
SAILING: (1800-2200): Women's board, men's Finn women's Europe, Soling, men's boards Laser, Tornado and Star.
SOFTBALL: (1400-1800): China v Canada (w), Taiwan v Netherlands (w) (2330-0330): Japan v USA (w), Australia v Puerto Rico (w).
SHOOTING: (1400-2025): Women's double trap prelims and final, men's 50m free pistol prelims and final.
SWIMMING: (1505-1722): Women's 100m fly prelims, men's 400m free prelims, men's 4x100m free relay prelims, men's 100m back prelims, women's 200m breast prelims, 0031-0230: Women's 100 fly final, men's 400m free final, men's 4x100m free relay final, men's 100m back final, women's 200m Breast final.
TABLE TENNIS: (1530-1810): Women's and men's double prelims.
TENNIS: (1500-2300): Women's and men's singles prelims.
VOLLEYBALL: (1500-1930): Russia v Netherlands (m), Brazil v Bulgaria (m) (2100-0130): Argentina v USA (m), Italy v Tunisia (m), (0030-0459): Yugoslavia v Korea (m), Cuba v Poland (m).
WATER POLO: (1800-1840): Germany v Yugoslavia, Netherlands v Russia (2000-0020): Italy v Greece, Spain v Hungary, Ukraine v Croatia, (0300-0400): United States v Romania.
WEIGHTLIFTING: (1500-1700): 70kg group C; (1730-1930): 70kg group B, (2100-2300): 70kg group A finals.
WRESTLING: (1500-1810): Greco Roman classification 52kg, 62kg, 74kg, 90kg, 130kg, (2030-2350): Greco Roman bronze and gold 74kg, 130kg, 52kg, 62kg, 90kg.
(m)= men; (w)=women.

Television Coverage

Terrestrial Coverage: Olympic Grandstand: BBC1: 07.00, 09.05, 1340; BBC2: 20.30; BBC1: 22.10.
Satellite Coverage: Eurosport: continuous coverage from 06.00.

SUNDAY'S LATE RESULTS

Baseball

MEN: Preliminary round: Italy 2 South Korea 1. Cuba 8 Japan 7 (10 innings).

Basketball

WOMEN: Preliminary round: Group A: Japan 63 Russia 73; Italy 62 China 53; Group B: Ukraine 81 Zaire 65; United States 101 Cuba 84; Australia 78 South Korea 61.

Boxing

Light flyweight (48 kg) 1st series: N Munchyan (Arm) bye; O Petrov Bogiov (Bul) bye; S Kamang (Thai) bt Y Gnol (Tur) pts; SM Bornel (Rom) bt J Perez (Dom) pts; B Mendoza (Col) bt O Filecu (Can) pts; O Kiryukan (Ukr) bt AR Gambrani (Pak) pts; A Rasoanaivo (Madag) bt G Baca (Hond) pts; A Guardado (US) bt M Hesler (Bots) pts; Y Aguilera (Cuba) bt S Strom (Swe) rsf 2nd; M Velasco (Phil) bt Tsai Chih-Hsu (Tai) rsf 1st; H Berhili (Mor) bt A Tatteh (Ghan) pts; Yang Xiangzhong (China) bt A Rossell (Peru) pts; R Lozano (Sp) bt J Benhard (Nam) pts; M Maseko (SA) bt 7 Debenda (Ind) rsf 1st; J Martinez (Mex) bt B Sapok (Malay) pts; L Lapani (Indo) bt P Balez (Slovak) pts. Lightweight (60 kg): 1st series: M Grazayan (Arm) bye; M Strange (Can) bt F Martinez (Mex) pts; D Zimba (Zam) bt S Odrochepkina (Bela) rsf 3rd; T Tonchev (Bul) bt O Tajkou (Mold) rsf 2nd; J Konechy (Cz Rep) bt I Katore (Burk) pts; V Phongam (Thai) bt I Burlalu (SA) pts; T Ulzumen (Mong) bt M Majica (Dom) pts; 7 Cauthen (US) bt M Abdullaev (Uzb) pts; Shin Soo-yung (S Kor) bt G Macza (Ken) rsf 3rd; F Nievas (Arg) bt F Agentho (Ugan) pts; H Schrens (Alg) bt V Isaev (Tur) pts; A Nunez (Bra) bt H Kunsi (PNG) on tiebreak; S Kopenin (Kyrgz) bt C Guarcomessi (It) pts; L Doroftei (Rom) bt J Mosankas (Gabon) rsf 2nd; J Gonzalez Valledares (Cuba) bt R Brin (Phil) pts; K Gogoladze (Geo) bt R Crol (VKor) pts. Heavyweight (91 kg) 1st series: ...; L Krasnoy (Ger) bt R Chagayev (Uzb) pts; D Da Silva (NZ) bt C O'Grady (Irl) rsf 1st; S Dychko (Belar) bt R Kuirns (Lat) pts; N Jones (US) bye; F Ochieng (GB) bye; C Alvez (Ugan) bye; Tao Jiang (China) bye; C Mandy (Fr) bye; D Ba... (Rom) bye; D Defiagbon (Can) bye; A ... (Net) bye; W Bartz (Pol) bt L Singh (Ind) pts; G Kandelaki (Geo) bt T Garcia (Gua) pts; K Tuckson (Swe) bt ... pts; F Savon (Cuba) bt A Kumyavka (Kyrgz) pts.

Fencing

MEN: Individual sabre preliminaries: F Duchex (Fr) bt J Olech (Pol) 15-11; S Wiesinger (Ger) bt C Koves (Hun) 15-10; S Sharikov (Rus) bt L Williams (GB) 15-11; N Jaskot (Pol) bt F Beckmann (Ger) 15-10; L Tarantino (It) bt M Covaliu (Rom) 15-9; J Navarrete (Hun) bt T Plourde (Can) 15-9; F Becker (Ger) bt P Cox (US) 15-12. Quarter-final: D Touya (Fr) bt R Sznajder (Pol) 15-12; S Pozdnyakov (Rus) bt V Guttsayt (Ukr) 15-14; J Navarrete (Hun) bt F Becker (Ger) 15-7; S Sharikov (Rus) bt S Wiesinger (Ger) 15-6. Semi-finals: S Sharikov (Rus) bt D Touya (Fr) 15-14; S Pozdnyakov (Rus) bt J Navarrete (Hun) 15-7.

Final

1 Stanislav Pozdnyakov (Rus) .... Gold
2 Sergei Sharikov (Rus) .... Silver
3 Damien Touya (Fr) .... Bronze

WOMEN: Individual épée Semi-final: V Barlois (Fr) bt M Zalaffi (It) 15-6; L Flessel (Fr) bt D Szalay Horvathne (Hun) 15-10

Final

1 Laura Flessel (Fr) .... Gold
3 Valerie Barlois (Fr) .... Silver
3 Gyoengyi Szalay Horvathne (Hung) Bronze

Football

MEN: Preliminary round Group C: Mexico 1 (Palencia) Italy 0; South Korea 1 (Woon Jong-hwan) Ghana. Group D: Japan 1 (Ito) Brazil 0; Nigeria 1 Hungary 0.

WOMEN: Preliminary round: China 2 (Sh Gurong, Zhao Lihong) Sweden 0; United States 3 (Venturini, Hamm, Milbrett) Denmark 0; Germany 3 Japan 2; Brazil 2 Norway 2.

Hockey

MEN Preliminary round: Group B: Britain 2 (Giles 2) South Korea 2 (Park Shin-Heum; Kang Keon Wook); South Africa 1 Australia 1.

WOMEN Preliminary round: Germany 2 Spain 1; Netherlands 1 Britain 1.

Judo

MEN: Half heavyweight (95kg) Pool A Quarter-finals: Fernandes (Bra) bt Felecia (Baum) Nascimento (Por) bt Soares (Por)... Pool B Second round: S Sonnemans (Neth) bt W Al Awazem (Jor); R Stevens (GB) bt S El Gramba (Egy); Kim Min-soo (S Kor) bt V Thorleifsson (Ice); D Sergeyev (Rus) bt D Soloviov (Uzb); Y Nakamura (Japan) bt H Ait Sabah (Mor); M Lobzhanidze (Geo) bt R Capo (US); S Traineau (Fr) bt L Svind (Bela); D Gowing (NZ) bt S Pepic (Slovak). Third round: Sonnemans bt Stevens; Kim bt Sergeyev; Nakamura bt Lobzhanidze; Traineau bt Gowing. Quarter-finals: Kim bt Sonnemans; Traineau bt Nakamura. Semi-finals: Kim bt Traineau; Nastula bt M Fernandes.

Final

1 Pawel Nastula (Pol) .... Gold
2 Kim Min-soo (S Kor) .... Silver
3= Stephane Traineau (Fr) .... Bronze
Miguel Fernandes (Bra) .... Bronze

WOMEN: Half heavyweight (72 kg): Pool A Quarter-finals: Werbrouck (Bel) bt Curto (Sp); Belyayeva (Ukr) bt Scapin (It). Pool B First round: H Ertel (Fr) bt S Bacher (US); E Essombe (Fr) bt N Jenkins (Can); all others received byes to Second round. Second round: K Howey (GB) bt K Kienhuis (Neth); Y Tanabe (Japan) bt E Essombe bt D Luna (Cuba); F Gomez (Ven) bt N Gales (Aus). Quarter-finals: Tanabe bt Howey; Essombe bt Gomez. Semi-finals: Werbrouck bt Belyayeva; Tanabe bt Essombe.

1 Ulla Werbrouck (Bel) .... Gold
2 Yoko Tanabe .... silver
3= Ylenia Scapin (It) .... bronze
Diadenis Luna (Cuba) .... bronze

Rowing

MEN: Single sculls heats (winners to semi-finals, rest to repêchage) Heat 2: 1 D Porter (Can) 7:31.75; 2 L Szoq (Hun) 7:38.31; 3 D Cameron (Aus) 7:53.55; 4 O Khmich (Ukr) 7:57.05; 5 M Tse (HK) 8:11.51. Heat 3: 1 T Lange (Ger) 7:34.52; 2 S Fernandez (Arg) 7:37.53; 3 A Ibrahim (Egy) 7:41.17; 4 P Haring (GB) 7:42.56; 6 J Jaanson (Est) 8.10.01. Heat 4: 1 V Chalupa (Cz Rep) 7:35.48; 2 F Bekken (Nor) 7:39.36; 3 C Bessley (US) 7:44.79; 4 R Waddell (NZ) 7:49.69; 5 T Soderblom (Fin) 7:53.46.

Shooting

MEN: Trap Qualifying round: 1 M Diamond (Aus) 124pts; 2=L Bade (US); J Lakatos (US); J Maxwell (Aus) 123; 5=V Slamka (Slovak); Zhang Bing (China); M Vieira (Por) 122; 8=K Bindrich (Ger); P Boden (GB); J Gach (Cz Rep); G Leary (Can); Zhang Yongjie (China) 121; 13=Z Bodo (Hun); P Kubec (Cz Rep); Russell Mark (Aus); Park Chul-sung (S Kor); G Pellielo (It); J Perez (Sp); J Rebelo (Por) 120; 20=F Al-Deehani (Kuw); X Bouvier (Swit); J Damme (Ger); P Dupont (Bel); B Erickson (US); K Gombos (Hun); J Lebatut (Bra); Wung Yew Lee (Sing); F Pace (Malta); M Tittarelli (It); M Venturini (It) 119; 31=F Amici (San Mar); D Caro (Col); A Fernandez (Mex); D Kostelecky (Cz Rep); M Singh (Ind); Gusheng Zhao (China) 118; 37=G Barce (Andor); K Gill (GB); I Gulev (Bul); K Hansen (Den); C Vicard (Fr) 117; 42=T Allen (Irl); A Dousmanis (Lux); B Woodward (NZ) 116; 45=P Franca (Ango); H Jaanselu (Est); D Monakov (Ukr); I Snew (Can); J Artecona (P Rico); F Boza (Peru); Shu Ming Cheng (HK); M Dacu (Ant); A Kaitsu (Tur); U Moeller (Ger); F Peters (Bel) 114; 56 G Earnshaw (Phil) 113; 57=M Elpiddis (Gre); Huang I-chien (Tai) 111.

Final

1 M Diamond (Aus) 149pts
2 J Lakatos (US) 147
3 L Bade (US) 147

Softball

PRELIMINARY ROUND: Canada 2 Taiwan 1; China 8 Australia 0; Japan 3 Netherlands 0.

Swimming

MEN: 400 metres individual medley final

1 T Dolan (US) 4:14.90
2 E Namesnik (US) 4:15.25
3 C Myden (Can) 4:18.28

4x200 metres freestyle relay (fastest eight to final A) Heat 1: 1 Britain 7:21.92; 2 Germany 7:22.17; 3 Brazil 7:28.82; 4 Venezuela 7:32.63; 5 Croatia 7:43.69. Heat 2: 1 Italy 7:22.89; 2 Australia 7:23.24; 3 New Zealand 7:24.36; 4 Uzbekistan 7:40.60; 5 Ecuador 7:54.37; 6 Kyrgyzstan 8:00.00. Heat 3: 1 United States 7:18.28; 2 Sweden 7:20.61; 3 France 7:22.99; 4 Netherlands 7:23.39; 5 South Korea 7:45.99; 5 Singapore 7:54.19.

Final

1 United States 7:14.84
2 Sweden 7:17.56
3 Germany 7.17.71
5 Britain 7:18.74

WOMEN: 200 metres freestyle

Final

1 C Poll (Costa Rica) 1:58.16
2 F van Almsick (Ger) 1:58.57
3 D Hase (Ger) 1:59.56

100 metres breaststroke

Final

1 P Heyns (SA) 1:07.73
2 A Beard (US) 1:08.09
3 S Riley (Aus) 1:09.18

Volleyball

MEN: Preliminary round Group A: Bulgaria 3 Cuba 0; United States 3 Poland 0; Argentina 3 Brazil 1. Group B: Netherlands 3 Tunisia 0; Yugoslavia 3 Russia 1.

Water Polo

Preliminary round Group A: Hungary 9 Germany 8. Group B: Croatia 11 Romania 8; Spain 8 Netherlands 7; Italy 8 Ukraine 6; United States 9 Greece 7.

Weightlifting

Final

59kg (Snatch, Clean and Jerk)
1 Z Lingsheng (China) .... Total 307.5kg
2 L Sabanis (Gre) 137.5, 167.5, 305.0
3 N Peshalov (Bul) 137.5, 165.0, 302.5

Wrestling

Greco-Roman Finals

48 kg
Sim Kwon-ho (S Kor) .... Gold
A Pavlov (Bela) .... Silver
2 Gulyov (Rus) .... Bronze

57 kg
Y Melnichenko (Kazak) .... Gold
D Hall (US) .... Silver
Sheng Zetian (China) .... Bronze

68 kg
R Wolny (Pol) .... Gold
G Yalouz (Fr) .... Silver
A Tretyakov (Rus) .... Bronze

82 kg
H Yerlikaya (Tur) .... Gold
T Zander (Ger) .... Silver
V Tsilent (Bela) .... Bronze

100 kg
A Wronski (Pol) .... Gold
S Lishtvan (Bela) .... Silver
M Ljungberg (Swe) .... Bronze

THE INDEPENDENT

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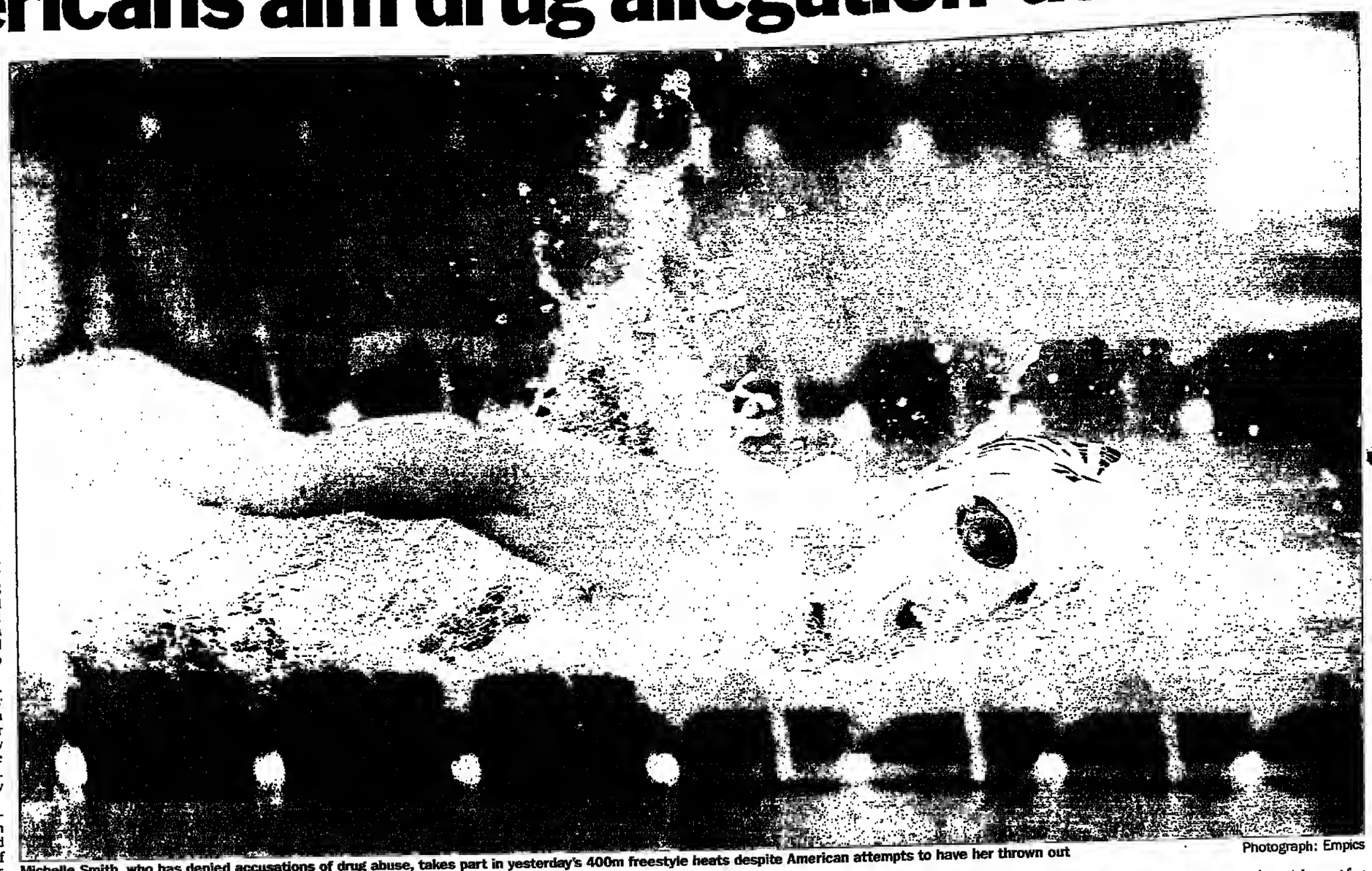
Americans aim drug allegation at Smith

SWIMMING
By Guy Hodgson



Michelle Smith, who has denied accusations of drug abuse, takes part in yesterday's 400m freestyle heats despite American attempts to have her thrown out

Photograph: Empics

Two days after becoming Ireland's first swimming gold medallist, Michelle Smith found herself involved in a massive confrontation with the United States team yesterday. Not only did they want her excluded from the 400 metres freestyle, but the quadruple gold medallist Janet Evans said also that questions were being asked about whether her rival is on drugs.

The argument broke out after Smith was included in yesterday's heats despite failing to set a qualifying time by the cut-off date on 15 July. The Americans were furious, but their anger intensified when Evans missed out on a place in the final by one position. The fact that Smith had qualified for the final – in effect taking the home girl's place – with the second-fastest time did not ease the situation.

"It's another disgusting example of politics in sport," Mark Schubert, the US women's assistant coach and Evans' personal mentor, said. "I can think of many times when we had kids get hurt or sick, and we were never allowed to change."

Evans was equally angry. "The decision is absolutely wrong," she said. "You can take two views on this: either you play by the rules or you say the Olympics is the place the best athletes should compete. Me? I feel you should play by the rules."

Told that Smith had considered it unfair that the US team has tried to have her ejected from the event, she added: "If she had qualified for the Games like everyone else did she wouldn't have thought it was fair she was allowed to race either."

A comparison was made between Smith, who won the 400m individual medley on Saturday with a time that was 19 seconds faster than her time in Barcelona four years previously, and the Chinese, who are frequently under the suspicion of taking artificial stimulants.

"Are you asking me if she's on drugs?" Evans replied. "Any time someone has a dramatic improvement there's that question. If you're asking me if there's the accusation out there then the answer is yes."

The Irish reaction was one of indignation. Pat Hickey, president of the Irish Olympic Committee, said: "They are jealous that a little country like Ireland took a gold medal off them. The Americans are doing all they can to get Michelle Smith thrown out.

"I think it's scandalous behaviour. It is clear that it was an Olympic organisational mistake but they [the Americans] wouldn't accept that.

"As for the suggestion she is on drugs, I have no doubt that Michelle is clean. I'm astounded by the accusation."

Dermot Sherlock, general secretary of the Irish Olympic Committee, said the Americans, having failed to have Smith excluded, were trying to switch attention to drugs.

"It's disgraceful of them. I come from a country that has very strong libel and slander laws and you cannot accuse someone unless you have the evidence. Until it's there you are wide open to legal action. She has been tested a least half a dozen times already this year in Ireland."

Smith has emphatically denied the allegations. "I've been tested three times in training already this year," she said a month before the Olympics. "I must be the most tested athlete in Ireland."

To gauge the Americans' anger yesterday it is necessary to understand where Evans stands among their sporting deities. Behind Mark Spitz, certainly, but not so far as you would notice.

She is the all-American girl that all America wants to win in Atlanta, and such is her standing she was the natural choice to carry the torch up the steps to the waiting Muhammad Ali at the opening ceremony. A path was being lit to where she would win at least another gold to push her alongside the speed skater Bonnie Blair as the American woman with the heaviest gilt edge.

Then Smith intruded on the scene with her devastating win in the medley. Fine, the Americans thought, but Ireland's new heroine had not clocked a fast enough time in the freestyle to reign on Evans parade. That is what they believed; the IOC ruled otherwise. Overturning a decision by Fina, swimming's governing body, the IOC accepted there had been a mix-up over the dates that had originated in Atlanta and allowed Smith's 4min 08.86sec recorded after 15 July to stand.

Evans, the world record holder, had expected to be among the medallists, at least, but she had a dreadful swim, trailing in behind Claudia Poll, the winner of the 200m freestyle the previous evening, clocking only 4:13.60. That was 0.02sec too slow to make the final. "I miscalculated," Evans, who also swims in the 800m, admitted. "I thought 4:13 would be good enough."

Amid the arguments, Britain's Sarah Hardcastle was in the heat between Evans and Smith but in a different world in terms of speed. Nevertheless her 4:14.50 was the fastest she has swum over the distance in a morning and it encouraged her for her best event, the 800m tomorrow.

"It was a good time for me and Hayley Lewis, who is one of the big threats in the 800, didn't perform that well," she said. "If I can step up the endurance work over the next few days I'll be fine."

Asked about the mood in the British camp after a less than scintillating start to the Games, she said. "Generally it's really good. OK, we haven't won any medals but there have been a few personal bests and you can't really ask any more from people."

Certainly not from James Hickman, who reached the final of the 200m butterfly beating the world record holder, Russia's Denis Pankratov, while setting a British record of 1:58.16.

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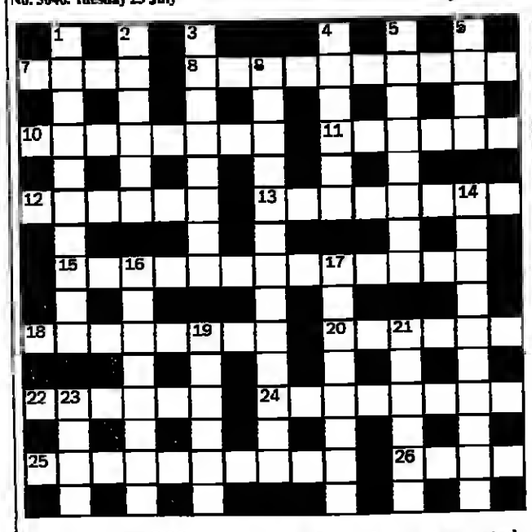
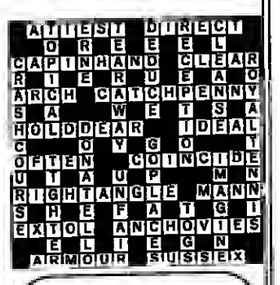
THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3046. Tuesday 23 July — By Aelred



Monday's Solution



ACROSS

7 Sell common fellow's record (4)
8 Are, we hear, in 3rd position? (10)
10 Determined position on a road as the norm (8)
11 Home with no yen to have disease (6)
12 Make box, having limited energy (6)
13 Feed on waste; that's to get one's own hack (8)
15 Funny connection at a chain (13)
18 Having much interest in what is paid? (8)
20 Terribly clear about day of origin (6)
22 Vegetable's put right into a stream of water (6)
24 Crusty baronet accepted one as a low singer (8)
25 Unstinting fun I'm spending one bit of money on (10)
26 Deferential writer on English king (4)

DOWN

1 Use CD we hear as a keeper of order in the kitchen? (10)
2 A District Atorney keeps information for list of business (6)
3 A prohibition suppressed by a woman on a dance (8)
4 Fear of old boy in a hip replacement (6)
5 Perhaps Ribes for treating disease? (8)
6 Such tension is shockingly dangerous (4)
9 Impossible prescription is essential (13)
14 Belligerent type's comfortable over delay (10)
16 Effect of drug company's entering Iran's chaotic (8)
17 A conservative clergyman is precise (8)
19 Get boat repaired by Italy's navy (6)
21 Time to put up some information mutually (6)
23 One might be mainly connected with favourable publicity (4)

Groans and gridlock as Atlanta grinds to a halt

Ken Jones experiences the daily frustrations of the 'worst-organised' Games as host city wilts in the heat

Approaching a group of smartly attired young volunteers outside the hockey stadium at Clark University on Sunday an irate reporter registered his contempt for the administration of Atlanta 1996. "You'll be able to tell your grandchildren about the worst-organised Olympics," he declared loudly.

With 250,000 regular commuters added to the crowds heading downtown for 17 events at 11 venues yesterday Atlanta braced itself for 10 days of chaos. Gridlocked streets and the subway system under such pressure that passengers were advised to allow two or three hours to reach their destinations. A police spokesman reported "absolutely horrendous" traffic. Parking lots at outlying stations were full by 5.30am.

Simply getting there is the biggest problem in Atlanta. In order to make their marching time for last Friday's opening ceremony athletes abandoned buses and completed the journey on foot. The USA-Nicaragua baseball game had to be delayed because buses were not ready to transport the players. Fearful of not making their start times, Britain's rowers, Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, have pulled rank, commandeering one of the cars allocated to BOA officials.

"The worst-organised event I've ever known," said Redgrave, who along with Pinsent, the coxless fours crew – Rupert Ohholzer, Tim Foster, Greg and Jonny Searle – were yesterday relocated near Lake Lanier. "Mr Redgrave did not hesitate to inform us of his displeasure," Bob Brennan, a spokesman for the Atlanta Organising Committee, said.

Graffiti in the main press centre is a wail of frustration – *Barcelona, We Miss You*. Everyone, it seems, has a tale of woe, missing or broken-down buses and wild blunders in navigation. On Sunday, one of many drivers recruited from other states gave up after discovering that her route to the rowing course at Lake Lanier involved travelling along a main highway. "It frightens me," she said.

Stubbornly, deaf to a mounting clamour of complaint from athletes, team officials and journalists, the International Olympic Committee has insisted that the situation is not unusual. "At present, transportation and technology are our top priorities," Michele Verdier, of the IOC, said, "but the problems are quite normal compared with previous Games."

This is errant nonsense. Nobody remembers a time when so many difficulties were put in the way of competitors and journalists. In the most advanced society on earth computers fail to provide information. The three-man wire services relaying results to thousands of newspapers world wide through high-speed lines for which they have each paid $10,000 (£6,450) have been entering them by hand. "We are working like 20 years ago," Michel Henault of the Agence France-Presse said. "We received nothing on the computers from wrestling and weightlifting."

Acog claims to have identified the problem but cannot guarantee to bring about an improvement. "They weren't admitting to a problem but now they realise they have a big problem," an IOC member, Alex Gilady, said.

Attempting to play down the matter, Bob Brennan said: "I'm told that many of the technology problems are rapidly being resolved." However, things came to a head yesterday when Acog came under fire from the IOC which is clearly embarrassed by a worsening situation.

Anger is understandable. Dick Palmer, the secretary of the British Olympic Association and team chief, yesterday said: "The problems of the transport system have been taken up at the highest level, involving the IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, Billy Payne, president of the organising committee, and Bill Campbell, the mayor of Atlanta. The organisers are wrestling with the problems of transport scheduling, drivers who are unfamiliar with the venues and the poor quality of the buses."

It is already clear that Acog miscalculated seriously when addressing the task it took on with a successful bid for the Olympics, learning little, it seems from the Games of Barcelona and Seoul.

AD Frazier, No 2 in Acog, said it would take a little time to get the transport system working. "It's rather like a dinosaur: its head makes a decision and 10 minutes later the tail wags."

That the Games have become too big is beyond question. Despite the smiling faces, the goodwill conveyed by local inhabitants is cheapened here by profiteering and tatty vending outlets. Nerves become frayed. Will the buses ever come? Fenced-off streets, growling cops.

Spectators leaving the boxing arena on Sunday were logjammed on an intersection controlled by US Air Force sergeants. Flooding into oncoming traffic they were reprimanded by an off-duty police officer. Pouring out of trains at the Peachtree Centre subway station, passengers were confronted by lifeless escalators and a steep 300-step climb to the street. "Does nothing work in this town?" an Australian complained.

Maybe soon but not yet.

Players rehydrate using drip

HOCKEY
By Bill Colwill

Dextrose saline drips were given to Great Britain's hockey captain, Jason Laslett, and his fellow midfield player Russell Garcia at half-time on Sunday to combat dehydration during their 2-2 draw with Korea.

Although the temperature for Britain's game, which started at 5.30pm, did not reach the 90s of earlier in the day, it was the high humidity that caused the havoc. The players were offered the drip at the interval when it was established that they had lost three and four kilos each during the first half.

With the British Olympic doctor, the team doctor, Ian Beasley, and orthopaedic consultant Richard Dodds in the dressing-room at the interval, there was no shortage of specialist medical expertise as the players were given the drip, the needles being inserted while they were lying on the dressing-room benches.

Significantly, when weighed at the end of the game, Garcia's loss had been reduced to two kilos, with Laslett having only lost half a kilo.

David Whittle, the team manager, confirmed that apart from a few bruises, the squad had no injury problems, but that the offer of a drip would be made to all the players during the interval of their game today against the Netherlands.